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THE AMERICAN Legion

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contents

May 2007 • Vol. 162, No. 5

14 Fortress Under Fire

New York veterans vow never to surrender in their fight to regain custody of an historic Park Avenue armory. *By Jeff Stoffer*

22 When Employment and Deployment Collide

Hundreds of citizen soldiers return from overseas deployment only to face pay problems or even the loss of their jobs. *By Ken Olsen*

28 Death, Not in Vain

Gold Star parents like Tony and Amy Galvez say that Cindy Sheehan and the antiwar movement do not speak for them. *By Matt Grills*

36 Minimizing the Holocaust

Under the guise of "intellectual freedom," so-called scholars claim history's worst genocide has been exaggerated. *By Alan M. Dershowitz*

42 The Biggest Little City in the World

Historic Reno, Nev., is ready to welcome The American Legion for its 89th National Convention, scheduled for Aug. 24 to 30. *By James V. Carroll*

46 Man of Honor

On a dusty road in western Iraq, Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham sacrificed his life to save those under his command. *By James V. Carroll*

5 Vet Voice

10 Commander's Message

12 Big Issues

48 Rapid Fire

68 Comrades

76 Parting Shots

This Memorial Day, Americans pause to remember the brave men and women who have given their lives in defense of our nation, from the Revolutionary War to the worldwide war on terrorism. Department of Defense



ON THE COVER

At a service in Twentynine Palms, Calif., on Oct. 5, U.S. Marines of the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion honor Cpl. Adam Galvez and seven other members who were killed in action. Chris Jewett

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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Terry Quattlebaum, Walter Reed Army Medical Center's chief transitional services officer, signs a memorandum of understanding with National Commander Paul A. Morin during The American Legion's Washington Conference in March.

James V. Carroll

Walk the talk

Revelations about the sub-par care provided to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans at Walter Reed Hospital are despicable and completely unacceptable. I compliment the media, notably *The Washington Post*, for exposing this travesty. We are seeing some definitive steps by the new secretary of Defense, who insists the Army not hunker down and become defensive. Kudos to Secretary Gates.

Congressional hearings and cries of outrage from citizens, veterans and their families are appropriate and will underscore the need to fix this. But someone needs to step up and do something. I salute National Commander Paul Morin for The American Legion's memorandum of understanding with the Army to provide skilled American Legion service officers on site at Walter Reed to help fix the benefits and compensation mess. I commend Morin for walking the talk. The American Legion has a long and proud history of doing that.

—A.J. "Beau" Bergeron, Steilacoom, Wash.

One-sided publicity

As an American who served my country by enlisting in the Marines, I don't mind being called a hawk. I don't believe in isolationism. It didn't work prior to World War II, and it won't work now. The United States has been walked on for years because of the mistaken belief that if we retaliate in any way we will be seen as a bully. The kidnapping and murder of U.S. citizens overseas, outright attacks on our military and ships, bombed embassies, planes hijacked or blown out of the sky – for years, our only response was letters of protest from our government.

Finally we have someone in office who says, "That's enough" – enough coercion, enough threats, enough murder. I am tired of hearing about "Bush's war." The same members of Congress who are so

outspoken against the war are the same ones who voted to finance and send in our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Talk about flip-flops.

I didn't vote for the Republicans to continue the war, nor for the Democrats to stop it. I voted for the man I felt could do the best job leading our country. War has been declared on the United States by those who are envious of our freedom, and they won't stop until we are under their heel. I challenge all Americans who are tired of this one-sided publicity to make your voices known. Don't let the antiwar protesters be the only front-page news.

—Ken Milligan, Washington, Pa.

Forgive me for what may be seen as a rant, but I am so tired of sweeping statements made in reference to a particular political party and whether it is

good or bad for our country in general, and veterans in particular. Ensuring full funding for veterans benefits and care has been a battle since the first Minuteman took to his village green. It knows no political ideology or discipline.

The leaders of such groups like The American Legion and VFW know this and work to reach accommodation for their constituents from members of both parties. Let's not hamper those efforts by running our mouths.

—Keith Stanton, Macomb, Mich.

'Emergency Room Roulette'

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., says she wants VA to clarify the convoluted rules it uses to decide what medical bills are covered and what bills are not. We don't want the rules for closure. We want the emergency rooms to stay open. If the White House can give billion-dollar tax cuts to the rich, it can keep its promise to veterans.

—George Holt, Chicago

This story is not a true picture. Veterans have been told that we should stop at the first emergency facility before driving out to the VA hospital. This information was sent in writing at least twice. You don't mention that Clinton "Foxx" Fuller's driver passed two emergency facilities on the way to VA.

Someone acted on behalf of the patient without thinking. Let's not blame it all on VA. Each family has a responsibility.

Six weeks ago, I sat in the Spokane VA Hospital and listened to the pros and cons of this story. I see none of that in the article. True, lack of funding has made cuts necessary, but I feel the Spokane VA Hospital acted responsibly. No care is perfect. No matter what is

available, there are those who will complain.

—Helen Babb Boots, Cheney, Wash.

The drug war

We are right where we were 30 years ago in the drug war, only billions of tax dollars poorer. Everyone involved in drug prevention, abuse, rehabilitation and awareness programs is feeding at the public trough. There is simply too much money and too many jobs at stake to believe anyone would seriously consider eliminating the drug problem in this country.

Some states have approved marijuana for medical use. Does that sound like we are trying to cure the problem? Can anyone look me in the eye and tell me without laughing that of all the medicines available to man, none have the pain-killing properties of marijuana?

—Paul V. Collins, Franklin, Tenn.

I was not pleased to read about John Walters' desire to drug-screen schoolchildren — "in complete confidence, of course." Remember that annoying constitutional amendment against unreasonable search and seizure?

Nor do I believe Walters' unfounded belief that any massive amount of data can be kept confidential. Will results of these drug tests be kept as confidential as veterans' identity data or the "secret" terrorist wiretapping program?

Will the lowest-bidding laboratory testing these millions of samples be as accurate as the one the Army hired to do its drug testing in the mid-1980s? Lawsuits resulted in hundreds of soldiers being erroneously discharged and hundreds more punished for false positive test results. The government closed

the lab but made no effort to clear records.

Ben Franklin understood the issue when he said, "Those who would give up essential liberty for temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

—W. Lee Brame, New Tazewell, Tenn.

'Blood Money'

Steven Emerson writes that by filling up at any of the 14,000 Citgo stations in the United States, we are funding a government that is on record as being a supporter of Hezbollah. He implies that by buying from a Citgo station we are supporting terrorism. The truth is that Citgo does not own the stations; they are all privately owned. You are no more supporting terrorism by buying Citgo gasoline than by buying any other brand of gasoline. In fact, the United States imports about 10 million barrels of oil daily, of which approximately 10 percent comes from Venezuela. All three major U.S. oil companies have significant production in Venezuela. All refiners use Venezuelan oil in their manufacturing process.

Additionally, we buy 1.5 million barrels of oil per day from Saudi Arabia, a known supporter of terrorism, and 500,000 barrels per day from Iraq. It all ends up in your corner gas station, regardless of brand. Unless you ride a bicycle or walk everywhere you go, you can't boycott them all.

—Ron Harwood, Katy, Texas

'A Private's Secret'

Kay Grant quotes Melodie Lynn Thompson as saying that Pvt. Cathey holds the record for the longest period of "known gender-disguised service" in military history. Civil War records are at odds with that



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In patients with asthma, long-acting beta-agonist medicines such as salmeterol (one of the medications in ADVAIR®) may increase the chance of death from asthma problems. In a large asthma study, more patients who used salmeterol died from asthma problems compared with patients who did not use salmeterol. So ADVAIR is not for patients whose asthma is well controlled on another asthma controller medicine such as low- to medium-dose inhaled corticosteroids or only need a fast-acting inhaler once in a while. Talk with your doctor about this risk and the benefits of treating your asthma with ADVAIR.

ADVAIR should not be used to treat a severe attack of asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) requiring emergency medical treatment.

ADVAIR should not be used to relieve sudden symptoms or sudden breathing problems. Always have a fast-acting inhaler with you to treat sudden breathing difficulty. If you do not have a fast-acting inhaler, contact your doctor to have one prescribed for you.

What is ADVAIR DISKUS?

There are two medicines in ADVAIR: Fluticasone propionate, an inhaled anti-inflammatory belonging to a group of medicines commonly referred to as corticosteroids; and salmeterol, a long-acting, inhaled bronchodilator belonging to a group of medicines commonly referred to as beta-agonists. There are 3 strengths of ADVAIR: 100/50, 250/50, 500/50.

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Who should not take ADVAIR DISKUS?

You should not start ADVAIR if your asthma is becoming significantly or rapidly worse, which can be life threatening. Serious respiratory events, including death, have been reported in patients who started taking salmeterol in this situation, although it is not possible to tell whether salmeterol contributed to these events. This may also occur in patients with less severe asthma.

You should not take ADVAIR if you have had an allergic reaction to it or any of its components (salmeterol, fluticasone propionate, or lactose). Tell your doctor if you are allergic to ADVAIR, any other medications, or food products. If you experience an allergic reaction after taking ADVAIR, stop using ADVAIR immediately and contact your doctor. Allergic reactions are when you experience one or more of the following: choking; breathing problems; swelling of the face, mouth and/or tongue; rash; hives; itching; or welts on the skin.

Tell your doctor about the following:

- If you are using your fast-acting inhaler more often or using more doses than you normally do (e.g., 4 or more inhalations of your fast-acting inhaler for 2 or more days in a row or a whole canister of your fast-acting inhaler in 8 weeks' time), it could be a sign that your asthma is getting worse. If this occurs, tell your doctor immediately.
- If you have been using your fast-acting inhaler regularly (e.g., four times a day). Your doctor may tell you to stop the regular use of these medications.
- If your peak flow meter results decrease. Your doctor will tell you the numbers that are right for you.
- If you have asthma and your symptoms do not improve after using ADVAIR regularly for 1 week.
- If you have been on an oral steroid, like prednisone, and are now using ADVAIR. You should be very careful as you may be less able to heal after surgery, infection, or serious injury. It takes a number of months for the body to recover its ability to make its own steroid hormones after use of oral steroids. Switching from an oral steroid may also unmask a condition previously suppressed by the oral steroid such as allergies, conjunctivitis, eczema, arthritis, and eosinophilic conditions. Symptoms of an eosinophilic condition can include rash, worsening breathing problems, heart complications, and/or feeling of "pins and needles" or numbness in the arms and legs. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.
- Sometimes patients experience unexpected bronchospasm right after taking ADVAIR. This condition can be life threatening and if it occurs, you should immediately stop using ADVAIR and seek immediate medical attention.
- If you have any type of heart disease such as coronary artery disease, irregular heart beat or high blood pressure, ADVAIR should be used with caution. Be sure to talk with your doctor about your condition because salmeterol, one of the components of ADVAIR, may affect the heart by increasing heart rate and blood pressure. It may cause symptoms such as heart fluttering, chest pain, rapid heart rate, tremor, or nervousness.
- If you have seizures, overactive thyroid gland, liver problems, or are sensitive to certain medications for breathing.
- If your breathing problems get worse over time or if your fast-acting inhaler does not work as well for you while using ADVAIR. If your breathing problems worsen quickly, get emergency medical care.
- If you have been exposed to or currently have chickenpox or measles or if you have an immune system problem. Patients using medications that weaken the immune system are more likely to get infections than healthy individuals. ADVAIR contains a corticosteroid (fluticasone propionate) which may weaken the immune system. Infections like chickenpox and measles, for example, can be very serious or even fatal in susceptible patients using corticosteroids.

How should I take ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR should be used 1 inhalation, twice a day (morning and evening). ADVAIR should never be taken more than 1 inhalation twice a day. The full benefit of taking ADVAIR may take 1 week or longer.

If you miss a dose of ADVAIR, just skip that dose. Take your next dose at your usual time. Do not take two doses at one time.

Do not stop using ADVAIR unless told to do so by your doctor because your symptoms might get worse.

Do not change or stop any of your medicines used to control or treat your breathing problems. Your doctor will adjust your medicines as needed.

When using ADVAIR, remember:

- Never breathe into or take the DISKUS® apart.
- Always use the DISKUS in a level position.
- After each inhalation, rinse your mouth with water without swallowing.
- Never wash any part of the DISKUS. Always keep it in a dry place.
- Never take an extra dose, even if you feel you did not receive a dose.
- Discard 1 month after removal from the foil overwrap.
- Do not use ADVAIR with a spacer device.

Children should use ADVAIR with an adult's help as instructed by the child's doctor.

Can I take ADVAIR DISKUS with other medications?

Tell your doctor about all the medications you take, including prescription and nonprescription medications, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

If you are taking ADVAIR, you should not take SEREVENT® DISKUS or Foradil® Aerolizer® for any reason.

If you take ritonavir (an HIV medication), tell your doctor. Ritonavir may interact with ADVAIR and could cause serious side effects. The anti-HIV medicines Norvir® Soft Gelatin Capsules, Norvir Oral Solution, and Kaletra® contain ritonavir.

No formal drug interaction studies have been performed with ADVAIR.

In clinical studies, there were no differences in effects on the heart when ADVAIR was taken with varying amounts of albuterol. The effect of using ADVAIR in patients with asthma while taking more than 9 puffs a day of albuterol has not been studied.

ADVAIR should be used with extreme caution during and up to 2 weeks after treatment with monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants since these medications can cause ADVAIR to have an even greater effect on the circulatory system.

ADVAIR should be used with caution in people who are taking ketoconazole (an antifungus medication) or other drugs broken down by the body in a similar way. These medications can cause ADVAIR to have greater steroid side effects.

Generally, people with asthma should not take beta-blockers because they counteract the effects of beta-agonists and may also cause severe bronchospasm. However, in some cases, for instance, following a heart attack, selective beta-blockers may still be used if there is no acceptable alternative.

The ECG changes and/or low blood potassium that may occur with some diuretics may be made worse by ADVAIR, especially at higher-than-recommended doses. Caution should be used when these drugs are used together.

In clinical studies, there was no difference in side effects when ADVAIR was taken with methylxanthines (e.g., theophylline) or with FLONASE®.

What are other important safety considerations with ADVAIR DISKUS?

Osteoporosis: Long-term use of inhaled corticosteroids may result in bone loss (osteoporosis). Patients who are at risk for increased bone loss (tobacco use, advanced age, inactive lifestyle, poor nutrition, family history of osteoporosis, or long-term use of drugs such as corticosteroids) may have a greater risk with ADVAIR. If you have risk factors for bone loss, you should talk to your doctor about ways to reduce your risk and whether you should have your bone density evaluated.

Glucoma and cataracts: Glaucoma, increased pressure in the eyes, and cataracts have been reported with the use of inhaled steroids, including fluticasone propionate, a medicine contained in ADVAIR. Regular eye examinations should be considered if you are taking ADVAIR.

Lower respiratory tract infection: Lower respiratory tract infections, including pneumonia, have been reported with the use of inhaled corticosteroids, including ADVAIR.

Blood sugar: Salmeterol may affect blood sugar and/or cause low blood potassium in some patients, which could lead to a side effect like an irregular heart rate. Significant changes in blood sugar and blood potassium were seen infrequently in clinical studies with ADVAIR.

Growth: Inhaled steroids may cause a reduction in growth velocity in children and adolescents.

Steroids: Taking steroids can affect your body's ability to make its own steroid hormones, which are needed during infections and times of severe stress to your body, such as an operation. These effects can sometimes be seen with inhaled steroids (but it is more common with oral steroids), especially when taken at higher-than-recommended doses over a long period of time. In some cases, these effects may be severe. Inhaled steroids often help control symptoms with less side effects than oral steroids.

Yeast infections: Patients taking ADVAIR may develop yeast infections of the mouth and/or throat ("thrush") that should be treated by their doctor.

Tuberculosis or other untreated infections: ADVAIR should be used with caution, if at all, in patients with tuberculosis, herpes infections of the eye, or other untreated infections.

What are the other possible side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR may produce side effects in some patients. In clinical studies, the most common side effects with ADVAIR included:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Respiratory infections | • Bronchitis | • Musculoskeletal pain |
| • Throat irritation | • Cough | • Dizziness |
| • Hoarseness | • Headaches | • Fever |
| • Sinus infection | • Nausea and vomiting | • Ear, nose, and throat infections |
| • Yeast infection of the mouth | • Diarrhea | • Nosebleed |

Tell your doctor about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the side effects with ADVAIR. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

What if I am pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or nursing?

Talk to your doctor about the benefits and risks of using ADVAIR during pregnancy, labor, or if you are nursing. There have been no studies of ADVAIR used during pregnancy, labor, or in nursing women. Salmeterol is known to interfere with labor contractions. It is not known whether ADVAIR is excreted in breast milk, but other corticosteroids have been detected in human breast milk. Fluticasone propionate, like other corticosteroids, has been associated with birth defects in animals (e.g., cleft palate and fetal death). Salmeterol showed no effect on fertility in rats at 180 times the maximum recommended daily dose.

What other important tests were conducted with ADVAIR?

There is no evidence of enhanced toxicity with ADVAIR compared with the components administered separately. In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans, salmeterol was associated with uterine tumors. Your healthcare professional can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean to your safety.

For more information on ADVAIR DISKUS

This page is only a brief summary of important information about ADVAIR DISKUS. For more information, talk to your doctor. You can also visit www.ADVAIR.com or call 1-888-825-5249. Patients receiving ADVAIR DISKUS should read the medication guide provided by the pharmacist with the prescription.

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claim. Civil War Pension Index records show that Albert D.J. Cashier (Nee Jennie Irene Hodgers) enlisted in the Union Army in Illinois on Aug. 3, 1862. Without having her gender discovered, Albert Cashier was discharged Aug. 17, 1865.

— Phillip M. Leonard, Kamas, Utah

'The Spin Doctor is In'

This article is a perfect example of the way the media slants news. Wouldn't it be nice to return to the days when newspapers left commentary to the editorial page?

— Neale Tracy, Saugerties, N.Y.

Ford the veteran

President Ford's picture should have been on the cover of the March issue, which had only a partial write-up within. Plenty more can be said about this fine president and military veteran. He was an Eagle Scout and a member of the Grand Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America, which presented him with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Medal. He also was a member of the Rotary and a 33rd Degree Mason member of Malta Lodge No. 405 in Grand Rapids, Mich. Finally, he served as a Navy lieutenant commander in World War II.

*— George B. Thompson,
Churchville, Pa.*

'Packed With Care'

I volunteer with the "Letters From Home" program, www.lettersfromhomeprogram.org. We collect cards, letters and product donations to send out to lonely and homesick U.S. soldiers all

around the world. We are based in rural Pennsylvania and have mailed out more than 200,000 cards and letters to 26,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors and Marines.

Cards and letters are the most important items you can send. Even just a quick "thank you for your sacrifice" on a pre-made card will do. The troops also enjoy receiving drawings and handmade cards from children, so get your schools, churches, Scouts and other organizations involved.

As Dwight D. Eisenhower said during World War II, "Morale is the single greatest factor in a continuing victory." Let's show America's finest how much they are loved and appreciated.

— Crystal Gornati, Kersey, Pa.

'Job Journey'

Although your article was well done and the information sounded very good, it contradicts my personal experience in attempting to get a federal position here in the Washington metro area.

As a matter of fact, I've even been denied my 10-point veterans preference from federal agencies such as the Department of Energy, Department of Commerce, Department of Homeland Security, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and others. I'm not alone, either. The Merit Systems Protection Board and the EEOC have received many complaints, which unfortunately take years to be resolved.

I know The American Legion has been very involved with other important veterans issues, such as health care and limited resources. However, my advice

would be to research your subject a little more thoroughly before painting too rosy a picture. A new generation of veterans is returning to a country again divided by an unpopular war, and there are many entrenched 1960s-era bureaucrats working for the government. Worse is the fact that there are very few veterans in Congress.

I predict that many of these young veterans will experience much of the same bias that we older veterans have experienced and still are experiencing.

— James F. Ray, Damascus, Md.

Right to free expression

I have been awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class Unit Citation and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation. I was there, just like the veterans J.P. Smith writes about (Vet Voice, March).

Fortunately, Uncle Sam drafted without discrimination. I owe my life, liberty and pursuit of happiness to the bedraggled, ragtag, long-haired and usually bearded alcoholics, drug addicts, street people, and yes, the businessmen, doctors, lawyers, engineers and politicians, too. When I met Charlie back in 1968, I didn't care who fought beside me. Why would I be ashamed to have any of them represent me in any celebration of recognition?

*— Elliott Anthony Grondin Jr.,
St. Ignace, Mich.*

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Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing.
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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

"The true lovers of humanity are those who put on the uniform with regret, fight like all hell when they wear it, take it off with rejoicing, but hang it where it can be got at if necessary, and remember that they must still stand watch in civilian's clothes, over the trophies of victory."

Author, historian and veteran **Rupert Hughes**, writing in the first issue of *The American Legion Magazine*, July 4, 1919

This Memorial Day, a war era is passing. It is the era of Alvin York, Eddie Rickenbacker and Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing, the era that issued machine guns and gas masks to doughboys fresh off the farm, lifted warfare up from the backs of horses and sent it flying through the air. It is the era that launched The American Legion.

As we lay down wreaths and salute fallen heroes at cemeteries and monuments around the world this month, no more than a half-dozen U.S. veterans from among the 4.7 million Americans who served in World War I are known to be alive. More than 53,000 were killed in action, about 10,000 fewer than those who died of other causes, like disease, during the fighting "over there."

On March 2, "Taps" played and "In Flanders Fields" was recited before a crowd of about 200 who attended the funeral of Howard V. Ramsey of Oregon, last known combat veteran of World War I. He was nearly 109.

Soon, they will all be gone, having left a legacy of strength, unity and patriotism. These were the veterans who propelled a belief, and lived according to it, that those who once served in uniform have equally important civilian duties to uphold after discharge. Theirs were the principles that created the Veterans Administration in 1933 after a string of corrupt government bureaus had failed to meet the needs of the shell-shocked, the gassed and the amputees of war. Theirs were the principles that proved in a massive march on Washington in 1932 just how formidable they could be when united by a shared cause. They gave our nation the most important piece of social legislation ever drafted: the GI Bill, the foundation for a half-century of U.S. prosperity. They built programs to mentor young people to become proud, contributing members of society, and of the armed services. The constitution World War I veterans drafted in 1919 is so timeless and dynamic it still guides our organization, the largest of its kind, 89 years later.

I will never forget one particular World War I Navy veteran, Frank R. "Butch" Kelley of Alexander Graham Bell Post 299 in Boston. He served aboard the USS *North Carolina*, and later became a city parks commissioner who worked diligently to create healthy recreational opportunities in the city. He was a national vice commander of The American Legion.

Butch Kelley was not a grandstander. Most often, he conducted his unique brand of leadership while seated in an easy chair of a hotel lobby, often late into the evening, where he always held court over a good cigar. "I've buried five doctors who yelled at me to quit smoking them," he used to joke; he lived to be 88. Seated next to him in the lobby might be some younger veterans, like myself at the time, trying to learn what we could from him. Or it might be Tip O'Neill. Butch treated national figures and blue-cap Legionnaires with equal ease and respect. He was guided by three simple sentences he told me never to forget: "We are fortunate. God has been good to us. We must always help somebody else."

I have not forgotten. His words, and respect for those who served during the Great War, will be in my prayers this Memorial Day.



National Commander
Paul A. Morin

MEMORANDA

ECHO TAPS WORLDWIDE:

On May 19, Armed Forces Day, thousands of buglers around the world will play "Taps" at the same time, both to honor the memories of U.S. veterans who have passed on and to raise awareness of the need to foster a new generation of buglers to play at funeral services. Launched in 2005 in New York, Echo Taps is supported by VA Volunteer Services and The American Legion.

www.echotaps.org

BLUE STAR BANNERS: The American tradition of hanging a Blue Star Banner in the window of a home that has a loved one serving in war was revived by The American Legion shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Now, the famous banners can once again be found all across the nation, a visible sign of community recognition and support for those in harm's way. The American Legion Emblem Sales division offers banners, both for homes and for businesses. Place an order by phone or online.

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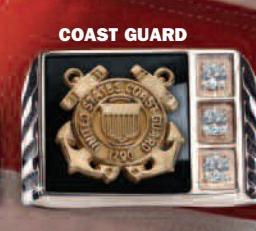
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Tax breaks for the oil industry



YES

Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska

■ Young is vice chairman of the House Resources Committee.

Congress passed H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007, supposedly to lessen our country's dependence on foreign oil. But if that really is the goal, this legislation falls far short of the hopeful outcome. We need to be encouraging American investment in domestic energy developments, which is our first line of defense against our dependency on foreign oil. This bill takes resources from U.S. gas and oil companies that could otherwise be spent on exploration here at home.

Some of our country's biggest untapped oil and gas resources are thousands of feet under water. The cost of exploring such areas can exceed \$100 million, at the risk of possibly hitting only dirt. H.R. 6 is well-intentioned in that it looks to use the money from extra taxes charged to oil and gas companies to subsidize new, alternative means of energy production such as solar devices, windmills, etc. But if we increase the cost of production here at home, we just about guarantee a rise in foreign OPEC oil imports and a fall in domestic production.

We should be taxing foreign oil, not U.S. oil. But under new Democratic leadership, we aren't taxing Hugo Chavez, and we aren't taxing Iran. We are taxing Americans. This bill bullies oil companies into re-negotiating their contracts or pay a \$9 dollar per barrel royalty fee from oil leases. If they refuse, they lose their right to bid on future leases on federal property. What was that about the United States trying to persuade Venezuela to honor property rights? Do as I say, not as I do?

It is incomprehensible to me that this bill eliminates well-paying U.S. jobs in our resource industries and instead increases jobs and U.S. funding abroad. Tax credits and other incentives help keep U.S. companies running, help keep Americans employed and help feed the U.S. economy.



NO

Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash.

■ McDermott managed House passage of the CLEAN Energy Act.

Every veteran knows firsthand what it means to serve our country to keep America strong. As a veteran, I believe the recent passage of energy legislation in the House of Representatives will help keep America strong.

H.R. 6 represents America's down payment on a future that relies on clean, renewable sources of energy. As a medical doctor, I can tell you that curing America's addiction to oil is long overdue.

Americans struggled to make ends meet as the price of gas surged to \$3 a gallon, and struggled again with home heating prices this winter. Does anyone believe these price shocks are an anomaly that will pass?

At the same time, science confirms that global warming is real. We ignore the evidence at the peril of our nation and planet. I want my two grandchildren to inherit an earth where the air is fit to breathe, and where the next generation does not wonder why we abandoned our responsibility. This legislation is the first step on a long road to energy independence, and it will create new U.S. jobs and new industries in our hometowns.

Our economy and way of life is overly dependent on oil, much of it imported. Are we going to pay any price to oil-rich nations that don't have our best interests in mind? The more dependent we are on oil, the more vulnerable we are.

Finally, this is a fairness issue. The energy industry muscled itself into a 2004 tax break that didn't even apply to it. It siphons hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars even as some oil companies report quarterly profits in the billions of dollars. They also got a sweetheart deal on oil leases in the Gulf of Mexico. Do you get something for nothing? Of course not, and the oil industry shouldn't either.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

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FORTRESS UNDER FIRE

THIS TABLET COMMEMORATES THE TRANSFER OF TITLE TO ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THIS ARMORY OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT, NEW YORK, TO THE VETERANS OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT N.G. N.Y., ON THE MUSTERING OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT INTO THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES, JULY 1917.

Engraved on a plaque above a fireplace inside the Seventh Regiment National Guard Armory, 643 Park Ave., New York City



Medal of Honor recipients appear in stained glass inside the Seventh Regiment Armory. The regiment sustained massive casualties breaking through the Hindenburg Line. Amy C. Elliott

Veterans battle to regain custody of historic Park Avenue armory.

BY JEFF STOFFER

Sixty-nine-year-old John McNamara seizes open a massive pocket door and reveals The Veterans Room. He breathes the stale, dark air, and stands silent for a moment, as if to acknowledge the possibility of ghosts. A stained-glass window nearby lists 10 Medal of Honor recipients who once walked these floors, six from the Civil War, four from World War I. Exquisite ceiling panels, blue-glass fireplace tiles, ornate woodwork, wrought iron and chandeliers revive the Gilded Age style of Louis Comfort Tiffany, designer of this interior more than 125 years ago. Display cases along the walls contain the uniforms and swords of National Guard and militia units dating back to the early 19th century. Past American Legion Post 107 commanders' names and their years of service are engraved on brass plates. There are thick, heavy chairs and tables, equally suited for business or repose. It is a room steeped in history, original art, memorabilia and class. And it is just one room, in just one corner, on the first floor inside the five-story, 180,000-square-foot Seventh Regiment Armory of Manhattan's posh upper east side.

"I've been here since 1960," says McNamara, who served 21 years in successor units of the Seventh Regiment. "There are rooms in this building I've never been in. There are



New York County American Legion historian Bob Corrigan, left, and veteran John McNamara pause to ponder the ornate interior of the armory, which was designed by some of the biggest names of the Gilded Age. **Amy C. Elliott**

rooms I don't even know about. There are rooms the state doesn't know about."

McNamara and others who spent their National Guard days drilling at the armory have consumed the better part of a decade at war with the State of New York over control of the famous structure, its contents and its future. In September 2004, then-Gov. George Pataki signed a law that McNamara complains was passed in haste and without a hearing, which gave the state power over the armory and attempted to stifle an ownership dispute with descendants of the regiment. A separate court decision later determined that the state also has rights to about \$10 million worth of art, antiques and furnishings displayed or stored there. Legal appeals have been filed over both the law and the lower-court decision about the contents.

Veterans of the regiment's lineage are furious and say they won't surrender, even though the state has evicted them from the armory, and an arts conservancy has moved in, launching a multi-million-dollar, four-year renovation project. Veterans say their case for custody hinges on history, morality and military law. They believe the state has violated all three.

"When they passed this law, one of the paragraphs says everything that was at-

tached to the walls, even light fixtures, were deemed to be a gift to the state. That's just stealing," says David Dalva, a veteran who relentlessly fights the state's ownership claims. "I called a legislator, who was very honest. He said, 'If you don't like it, sue us.'"

Built and Paid For. The crown jewel among about 120 historic armories and arsenals constructed between the late 18th and early 20th centuries across New York, the Seventh Regiment Armory went up between 1877 and 1881 with private funds raised by the National Guardsmen themselves. They were a particularly well-heeled band of citizen soldiers, known as the "silk-stocking regiment," whose connections generated big donations from the likes of John Jacob Astor and William H. Vanderbilt after \$350,000 in expected city funds didn't materialize. A veteran of the regiment and well-known architect, Charles W. Clinton, designed the brick fortress, which occupies an entire city-owned block along Park Avenue, between 66th and 67th streets.

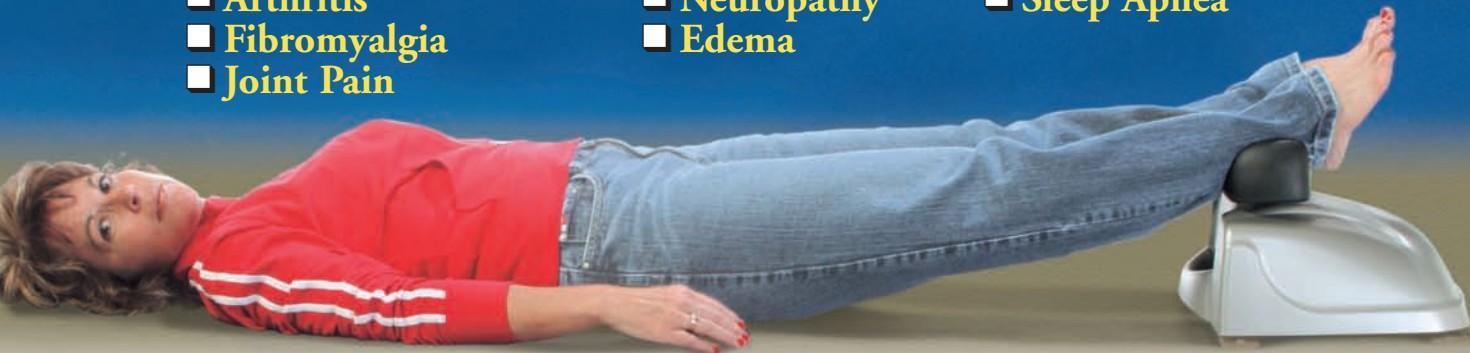
Members and veterans of the regiment came up with nearly \$120,000, a fortune at the time, from their own pockets to get the project under way. When the armory and its 56,000-square-foot drill shed stood finished

If you suffer from

- Stress
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- High Blood Pressure
- Arthritis
- Fibromyalgia
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- Constipation
- Back Pain
- Diabetes
- Neuropathy
- Edema

- Stiff Muscles
- Poor Circulation
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- Sleep Apnea



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I love using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ after my morning workout. It is an excellent way to cool down and it helps to start my day off right.—Deanna C., Kansas

After using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ twice a day for one week the swelling in my ankles went away. It has also helped my breathing, as I can get out and walk without having to stop and catch my breath! Thank you.—Shirley H., Florida

I have had constipation problems for over 25 years. Since I have been using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ I have been regular every day and have begun to lose weight. This is truly a blessing and is so easy to use.

—Jeannie

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I saw your ad for the Exerciser 2000 Elite in the Elks magazine for several months. The information in the ad almost sounded "too good to be true". With your no risk money back guarantee I figured I had nothing to lose so I purchased the machine...and boy, am I glad I did! I am 75 years old and suffer from sciatica, which makes my back and legs tighten up and causes numbness. I was taking 8-10 Allev™ every day for relief. After using the machine for only 4 minutes, I noticed my low back loosening up. Since I have been using the machine I have not taken any pain pills and have been pain free. My sciatica is not giving me problems anymore and my body stays loosened up. My wife and I went to a restaurant the other day and we had to wait in line for about an hour. I was able to stand there without any pain! I have also had a snoring problem for quite sometime, however, since using the machine my snoring has subsided. My wife is so excited!

I cannot tell you how much this machine has turned my life around. The Exerciser 2000 Elite is the greatest thing since sliced bread! I am going to tell everyone I know about it.—C. Cummings

My husband and I have been into natural products all of our lives but nothing has ever affected us like the Exerciser 2000™ Elite. My husband is 72 and delivers flowers all day long. He has to carry 5 gallon buckets of water and flowers that would give him backaches. Since

using the machine, his back hasn't hurt him at all. My hips would hurt if I stood too long and I would get weak and have to sit down. Now it doesn't bother me at all. I can walk and sit as long as I want. I don't have to take pain medication anymore. When I get up in the morning, I jump right out of bed and I'm not stiff anymore. At 65, wow, this is great! Thank you for offering such a great machine. We are going to tell everyone we know about it.—Cheryl J.

After having a stroke, I could no longer exercise the way I used to. As a result, I developed edema. A friend of mine introduced me to the Exerciser 2000 Elite™. I loved it and I purchased one for myself. After using the machine daily for a few weeks, my symptoms of edema were completely gone. I now use the machine twice a day for 16 minutes each time on speed 3. What a wonderful way to exercise.—Robert M.

I am in my late 80's and have diabetes. The first thing I noticed when I started using my machine was that my feet were warm when I went to bed. They were always ice cold before. Because one of my problems is poor circulation, I use the machine three times a day for 10 minutes each; in the morning, late afternoon and just before bed. I almost forgot to mention that I have not been able to lift my arms above my head. Now I can do it. You think that's no big deal until you can't do it anymore.—Ralph K.

I had suffered with sleep apnea for many years and had been taking drugs for it. I was told I would have to use a breathing apparatus. In the meantime, I was introduced to the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ and decided to purchase one. Within two weeks, I was sleeping more deeply and restfully than ever before.—David B.

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but empty, members and veterans filled it to capacity for three weeks with an extravagant community fair to raise money for furnishings. President Rutherford B. Hayes came to speak on the opening day of the event, which featured entertainment, art auctions, prize drawings and sales of everything from yachts to Angora cats. More than \$140,000 – about



David Dalva has spent more than a decade fighting to keep the armory under control of the veterans whose military ancestors built it.

Amy C. Elliott

\$3 million today – was raised. The regiment and its veterans, by virtue of their own hard work and ingenuity, had invented a national prototype for the modern multiple-use armory. It was a marvel of function and form.

Legal owners of the armory were initially listed as the field officers – the colonel, the lieutenant colonel and the major – of the

regiment. That status went largely unchallenged for nearly 115 years.

No one questioned whether or not the regiment deserved such a palatial installation. Its rich military roots could be traced to 1806 and the consolidation of four artillery companies that fought the British in New York Harbor. The term “National Guard” originated within this ancestry, after members provided escort security in the final visit to the United States by French Gen. Lafayette. The regiment or its descendant units would quell a string of violent city riots, defend Washington, D.C., during the Civil War, and play a vital role in the breakthrough of the Hindenburg Line in World War I. Elements from the armory were mobilized in the majority of U.S. military actions of the 19th and 20th centuries. Along the way, the Seventh became known as a training ground for officers – “the West Point of the National Guard,” McNamara explains.

“The Seventh Regiment Armory is incredibly important, historically and architecturally, to the city of New York and to the country,” Dalva says. “The heritage of our people has to be preserved.”

A Twist of Eminent Domain. In 1996, when a state task force made an attempt to inventory

and tag the armory’s treasures, Dalva personally blocked the door. The state then sued the Seventh Regiment Fund, a separate corporation with a veteran board of directors that for more than 50 years functioned as legal owner of the armory’s art, antiques and other belongings. The items had been transferred to the fund in 1952 out of concern that the state would abscond with them in the event of a Korean War deployment. Many other regiment possessions, including a great deal of original art and the vast collection of its library, were previously donated to the New York Historical Society. The state assumed maintenance and operational control over all New York armories in 1942.

“But,” says Kenyon Fitzgerald, president of the Seventh Regiment Fund, “title to the buildings did not change. The regiment still owned the armory. The regiment was not even there when this happened. They had been called up.”

Dalva, 70, served nearly three decades in the National Guard and Army Reserve, including a stint at the Pentagon, before retiring as a colonel. He is so impassioned about the state’s seizure of the armory he once was jailed for resisting arrest while trying to show a TV camera crew that the armory was not falling apart, as the state had claimed when arguing the need to transfer it to someone who would restore it. Dalva says that although maintenance of the armory had been poor since the state assumed that function from the regiment, which had covered maintenance costs through member dues that were later eliminated by law, the structure was, and remains, structurally sound. “There is a ceiling on the first floor that has some water damage and some scaffolding under it. There is some chipped and flaking paint in the hallway of the first floor. Wherever they investigate a crack, they put up scaffolding and just leave it there.”

The 2004 law enabled the State of New York to travel a path that closely resembles controversial eminent-domain takings of recent years. Government entities, sanctioned by the U.S. Supreme Court, have more freedom than ever to take property, especially if it can be shown as run-down, and broker it to development corporations on the promise of greater economic benefit under different ownership. In the case of the armory, the state trans-



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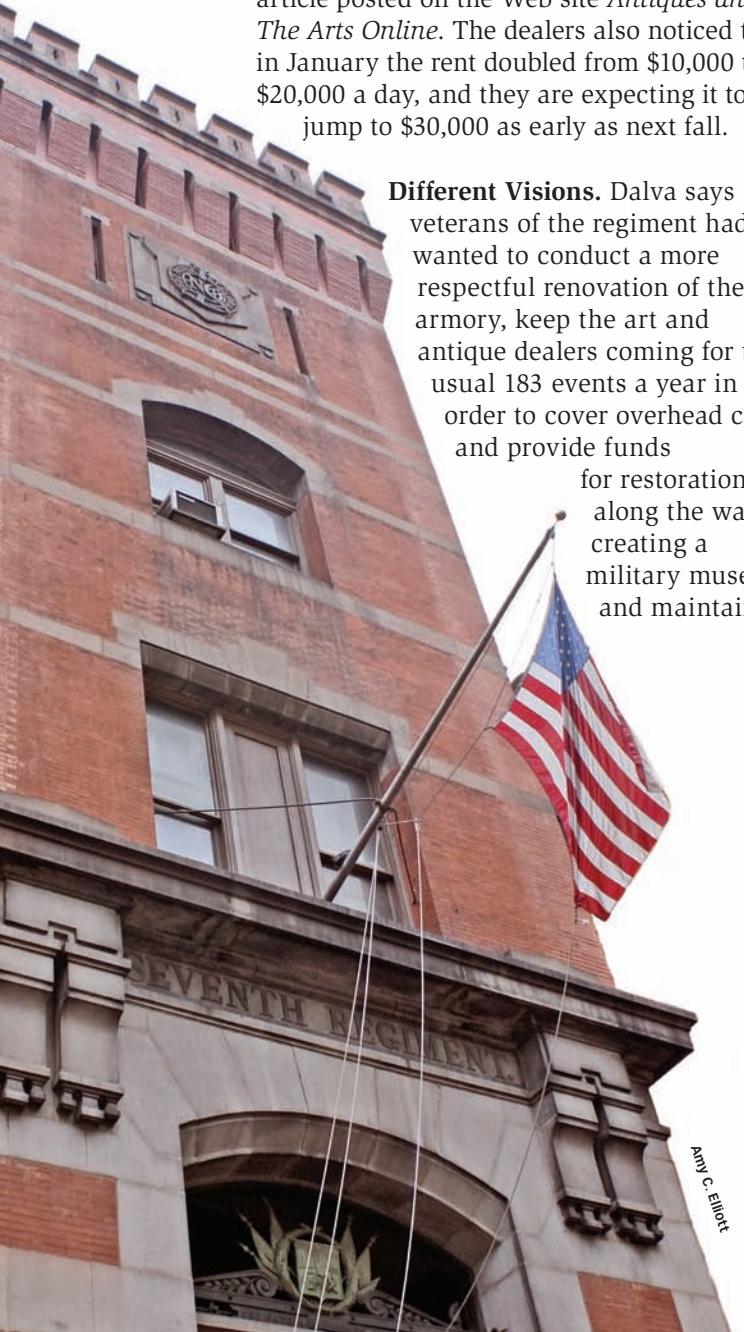


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ferrered its control to the Empire State Development Corp., which then signed a 99-year lease with the arts conservancy last November.

"They're taking public property and giving it to private individuals for private gain," says Phil Chiappone, attorney for the Seventh Regiment Fund. "Our basic position is this was a land grab by the state."

The conservancy plans to install 1,500 new seats inside the armory and nearly double the number of annual functions and stage performances, up to 330, held there each year. Art and antique dealers who for years have used the historic structure for their events have already noticed interior improvements since the conservancy took over, according to an article posted on the Web site *Antiques and The Arts Online*. The dealers also noticed that in January the rent doubled from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a day, and they are expecting it to jump to \$30,000 as early as next fall.

Different Visions. Dalva says veterans of the regiment had wanted to conduct a more respectful renovation of the armory, keep the art and antique dealers coming for their usual 183 events a year in order to cover overhead costs and provide funds for restoration, along the way creating a military museum, and maintaining

the 200-year-old National Guard heritage there, keeping it a real installation in case of a civil-defense emergency.

"The original idea," Dalva explains, "was that it would be used during the summer and then some other times – for antique shows, Boston Pops, that sort of thing – where you just put out tables and chairs, people would come in to listen to music and leave. It was not heavy theater. There were no changes contemplated in the structure when we originally developed our plan. These people are now talking about cutting holes in the sides of the building. When (the conservancy) issued a plan that showed a new loading dock on 66th Street, the neighbors went ballistic."

A National Guard presence must be maintained in the armory not merely out of historical sentiment. It's a condition of the original city land lease on a block of Manhattan that could command upwards of \$1 billion if sold on the open market today, Dalva says. The 53rd Army Liaison Team, a civil-affairs unit, today keeps an office and a handful of Guardsmen in the armory, which has not been activated for military purposes since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "You look at this location and you have to ask," says Bob Corrigan, New York County American Legion historian, "do we really want to lose a military installation here, in this day and age of terrorism?"

Julia Fredrick Willkie doesn't. A volunteer for a group called The Friends of the Seventh Regiment Armory and former Manhattan real-estate manager, she remembers the grand opening of a new \$13 million emergency command center for New York City. "I said to many it was the most ludicrous thing I had ever heard because it was built on the 23rd floor of 7 World Trade Tower, with an enormous fuel reserve tank," she explains. "I never dreamt of 9/11, but it happened, and 7 World Trade Tower collapsed, with the command center. Disasters happen, and satellite staging centers for troops and provisions must exist."

Bruce Lee, a veteran who lives across from the Park Avenue armory where he served from 1955 to 1961, is concerned that this residential area will become New York's next Broadway as plans materialize. "The traffic problems in our neighborhood, for this number of opening curtains and end-of-show curtains, would be highly destructive," Lee says, adding that

some 365,000 square feet of air rights above the armory, which can be valued as high as \$400 a foot, may be vulnerable to future development. "Who will control these rights, and how will they be used? At the moment, the development corporation has given control of these air rights to the conservancy." Lee also believes the 1,500-seat plan is just a start and that the lease itself contemplates as many as 4,100 seats in various future configurations.

Veterans filed a city petition to require the conservancy to perform a full environmental impact statement, but their case was dismissed on the grounds that the veterans lacked standing in the issue, unlike the residents surrounding the armory. The legal challenge on the environmental impact statement decision would have to come from the community.

The Legal Litmus Test. Especially disheartening to Dalva, a dealer of 18th-century French furniture, was the 2005 ruling that the state could claim all the armory's art, artifacts and memorabilia and disperse it with limited oversight – precisely what the regiment's descendants feared in 1952. "They were afraid the state would swoop in and take it," Chiappone says. The Seventh Regiment Fund, which had been established in 1909 to accept testamentary donations, had clear ownership, Chiappone says, until plans for a new military museum in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., were announced in the early 1990s, leading the state to seek items from historic armories across the state, including those owned by the Seventh Regiment Fund.

The state's lawsuit against the fund was dismissed in 2002 after it was believed the statute of limitations expired. An appeal by the state, however, remanded the dismissal to a lower court, which in 2005 granted the state ownership of everything. "It was a very flawed decision," says Fitzgerald, a veteran who served in the armory from 1960 to 1966. He is confident the next decision will come down on the side of the veterans. "The lower court was not ordered to rule on the lawsuit. They didn't do what they were supposed to do. I think our chances on the property case are excellent."

"I know when I am wrong, and I know when I am right," says Chiappone, who represents the veterans in their battles over the armory. "On this one, we were right, and

we are not willing to lie down.

"The money to build this armory did not come from the State of New York. It came from the veterans. As late as the late 1960s, private money was used to maintain the armory. There are invoices after invoices. When the armory needed a new floor, the veterans did it. When something needed to be restored, the veterans did it. In the big picture, this is a moral issue. The building was not built for the purpose of running a performing arts center."

Fitzgerald says veterans provided well over \$1 million worth of armory improvements after World War II. "Whenever the state came to us and asked if we could do it, we said yes, like fools."

The American Legion Department of New York agrees that the armory situation is a travesty. Last July, the Department Convention passed a resolution urging the state "to restore rightful ownership of the armory to the trustees" and "continue to base a successor unit of the regiment in the armory, allow veterans organizations to continue to maintain office space within the armory and that the proposed museum be allowed to be developed by the veterans."

The case bears watching for American Legion posts with properties in coveted real-estate markets across the country.

McNamara, who admits American Legion Post 107 members have scattered in recent years and don't meet as regularly as they once did, can't help but believe that somewhere in The Veterans Room, perhaps etched in the plaque above the Tiffany fireplace, is the spirit of unity and resourcefulness that built the armory so long ago. He and his fellow veterans need that spirit now, he believes, to regain what they believe is rightfully theirs.

Lee says the regiment's descendants have a tall order. "The community owes great thanks to the veterans for having stood up to the conservancy and the ESDC for many years," he says. "Anyone can see we are fighting an 800-pound gorilla." ☰

Veterans interested in communicating with those who are fighting to regain custody of the Seventh Regiment Armory and its contents should contact Kenyon B. Fitzgerald.

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Jeff Stoffer is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

WHEN EMPLOYMENT AND DEPLOYMENT

COLLIDE

Citizen soldiers fight to regain jobs, unsnarl pay problems after separation.

BY KEN OLSEN

Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Debra Muhl came home from Iraq last May to learn that California-based Sutter Health had made good on its promise. The company fired her after she served a third overseas tour of military duty. "I was very despondent," says Muhl, 56, who has 32 years of active and reserve service in the Air Force. "I couldn't believe I lost my job for my dedication to my country."

Muhl's boss, who had pestered her to leave the military following her second post-9/11 deployment, was enraged to learn she was going back to Iraq, she says. He summoned her three days before Christmas 2005 to tell her she was through at Sutter Health.

"I've decided to eliminate your position – you won't have a job when you get back from the desert," Muhl says she was told by Dr. Richard Gray, medical director of Sutter Health's joint cardiac program in the San Francisco Bay area. A few weeks later, Muhl shipped out to Balad Air Base in Iraq, where she served as an operating-room charge nurse. She helped stabilize critically wounded patients before they were airlifted to the U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

"I had a very hard time," Muhl says of her four-month tour. "I've never seen so much trauma in my 20 years as a nurse." And while she was off duty, or huddled under a desk in her body armor

as mortar rounds sailed over the walls of the hospital compound, "I kept thinking to myself, 'I can't believe I'm losing my job.'"

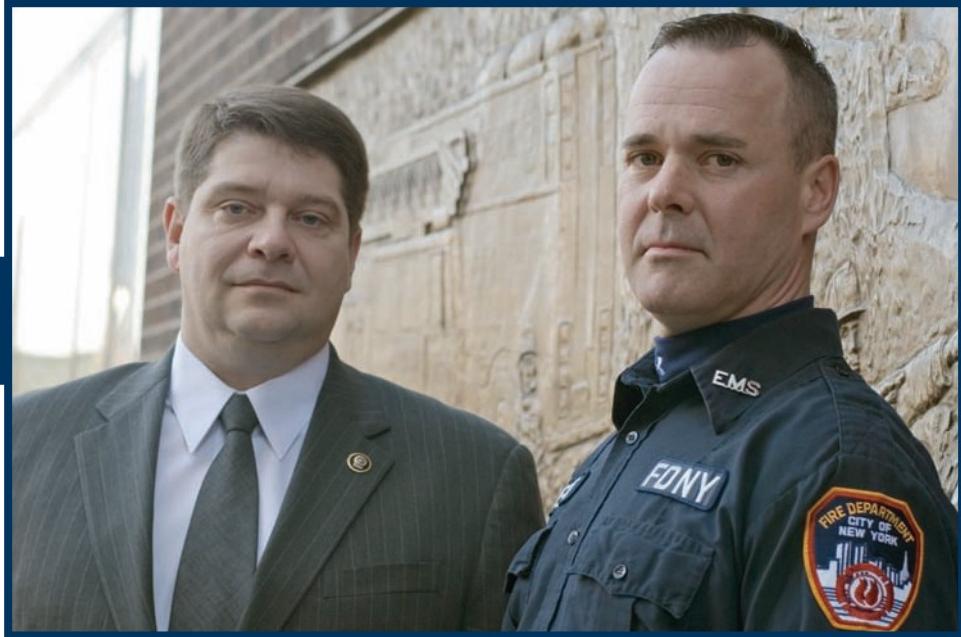
When she came home, that's exactly what happened. "This event really knocked the feet out from under me," Muhl says. "I believe (Dr. Gray) quite maliciously and deliberately fired me. I was worried I would lose my house."

Sutter Health says it "strenuously disagreed" with Muhl's claims. The northern California nonprofit company – which operates 26 hospitals and several clinics, hospices and doctor's offices – says it had long planned to eliminate Muhl's job, although Sutter acknowledges it didn't share that news with Muhl until after she told them she had orders to return to Iraq.

While the timing was regrettable, the elimination of her position had nothing to do with her military deployment, says Karen Garner, communications director for Sutter. "We offered her a generous severance package and help finding a new job. We also provided supplement pay during her 2006 deployment, despite the fact that her position had been eliminated."

Sutter has supported its employees "during hundreds of military leaves of absence," Garner says. "The evidence suggests that Dr. Gray didn't engage in many of the things Debra Muhl claims."

In January, Muhl took her case to federal court,



Det. David Goodman, left, and EMT James Martinez are expected to repay, in a short period of time, salary and benefits they received during their post-9/11 deployments.

Amy C. Elliott

"I have guys who have gotten out of the National Guard because of this. They tell me they can't afford to be deployed."

U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. David Goodman,
a New York City police detective who has been deployed three times since 9/11

charging that Sutter Health violated the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). The case was settled in mid-March for an undisclosed sum.

Hers is not an isolated case. Hundreds of citizen soldiers are locked in disputes with their employers in the wake of one of the most massive deployments of National Guardsmen and reservists since the Korean War. The disagreements range from illegal firings and demotions to a differential pay quagmire that threatens to penalize more than 1,500 New York City police, firefighters and other municipal employees who answered the call to arms. And this is only the beginning, predicts David A. Lowe, Muhl's attorney.

"We are at the leading edge of this because we are seeing repeated deployments of reserve units, to an unprecedented degree," Lowe says.

Lowe also is handling the case of a Marine gunnery sergeant who was demoted after returning from a yearlong deployment to Iraq. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Justice announced a settlement in January with a Louisiana janitorial supply company that illegally fired a National Guardsman for attending a two-week training that was part of his military obligation. And National Guard Spc. Ralph J. Isabella II is suing an Ohio auto dealership that allegedly fired him after he was dispatched in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

There's precedent for these sorts of claims. Two years ago, a federal judge in Colorado levied a \$400,000 judgment against Agilent Technologies for eliminating Marine Corps Reserve Lt. Col. Steve Duarte's job four months after he returned from his second post-9/11 mobilization. Duarte's attorney, Marine Corps Reserve Col. George C. Aucoin, says he has about 10 similar cases pending in federal court.

"I don't think employers understand the implications of their obligations under the law to provide re-employment," Aucoin says. "And I don't think employers understand the implications of discriminating against someone on the basis of their military service. There's a lot of that kind of discrimination going on, and military people are loathe to list their reserve affiliation for fear they won't be hired."

The consequences of employer retaliation are dangerous, Muhl's attorney warns. "It becomes a safety and security issue," Lowe says. "We want our soldiers to be able to focus on their safety and the safety of other soldiers when they are out in the field and not be worried about losing their civilian jobs."

Federal legislation has provided employment protection for Guardsmen and reservists since the 1940s, says Maj. Robert Palmer of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an arm

***"I kept thinking to myself,
'I can't believe I'm losing my job.'"***

Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Debra Muhl

of the Department of Defense. Congress strengthened the law after a multitude of citizen soldiers reported difficulties with their employers following the first Gulf War.

More than 550,000 members of the National Guard and reserves have been deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, and about 100,000 currently serve on active duty. Four federal agencies – ESGR, the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Labor, and the Office of Special Counsel – report handling some 16,000 formal and informal complaints from Guard and reserve members between 2004 and 2006 alone.

ESGR estimates it successfully mediates 97 percent of the disputes it handles. "A lot of the issues are not malicious," Palmer says. "They are a lack of understanding or awareness on the part of the employer."

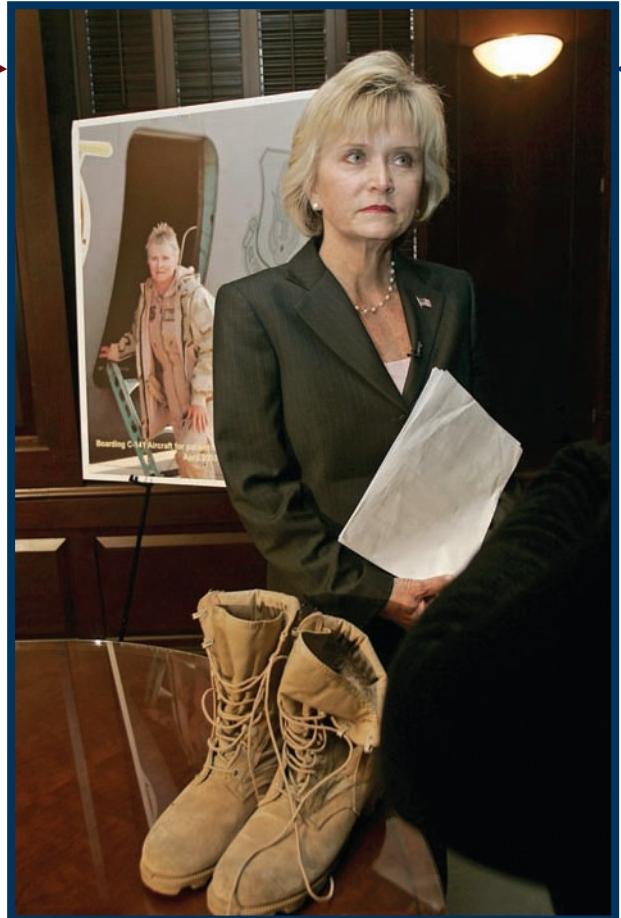
However, the federal government's statistics do not give a complete picture of the problem, according to a recent study by the Government Accountability Office. For example, these federal agencies are not adequately identifying cases where disabilities that result from active-duty injuries hamper a soldier's return to work.

Even National Guardsmen and reservists who don't lose their jobs are encountering any number of problems when they return to the civilian workforce.

Consider the payroll snarls faced by more than 1,500 New York City workers. In the aftermath of 9/11, then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani created the Operation Enduring Freedom Extended Benefits Package, which directed the city to continue salary and benefits for municipal workers called back to active duty with the Guard and reserves. Workers agreed to repay the city either their civilian salary or their military salary – whichever was less – after they returned. Mayor Michael Bloomberg extended the program.

"A lot of municipalities wanted to do something because they recognized that military pay tends to be low," says Kristen Zak, deputy chief of staff for New York City Councilman Michael E. McMahon. "So when Guard and reserve members are activated, it creates financial hardship."

Many New York City workers signed up for the program just to keep their health-insurance benefits. "There are very few doctors who accept



Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Debra Muhl returned from her third overseas deployment to find that California-based Sutter Health had eliminated her job. *Liz Hafalia/The San Francisco Chronicle*

military health insurance," Zak said. Their families faced traveling an hour or more to see doctors on a military base in New Jersey, and "that's not acceptable if you have kids."

Created in haste and haphazardly administered, the program has gone seriously awry. Workers were handed a vague repayment agreement a few days before they reported to active duty and were told that if they didn't sign it, they would lose health insurance, pension and other important benefits, says Amy Maniscalco, Family Readiness Coordinator for TAC II, 42nd Infantry Division, and the wife of a National Guardsman called to Iraq. There was no time to analyze the details.

"You are getting ready, saying goodbye to your family, saying goodbye to your friends and making funeral arrangements in case, God forbid, the worst happens," Maniscalco explains. "What weighted most heavily on our minds was the loss of health care at a time when we couldn't pay our bills. And I couldn't find a single doctor on Staten

Island who took TRICARE. Workers felt they had no choice but to sign it."

Returning Guard and reserve troops started inquiring about repaying the money as early as 2002. "They were told, 'Don't worry about it, nobody's collecting – nobody's even thinking about it," says U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. David Goodman, a New York City police detective who has been deployed three times since 9/11. They continued to hear that same answer until spring 2006, when workers who had even retired since returning from Iraq and Afghanistan started getting demand letters from the city.

Goodman received three bills totaling \$126,000 with no explanation for how the city had arrived at the sum. "It feels like they are saying, 'Thank you for serving your country – now you owe us,'" Goodman says.

The problems multiply. In calculating the amount it billed city workers, the city included tax-exempt military food and housing allowances Guardsmen and reservists received. That doubled the amount some citizen soldiers owed the city when they returned from active duty. Bloomberg finally backed away from that policy after months of controversy, a resolution supported by McMahon and several other city-council members after a heated hearing last September. Meanwhile, Bloomberg had put the Department of Citywide Administrative Services in charge of the program in an attempt to coordinate and standardize repayment across city departments. Four years later, city workers were told they had a maximum of five years to pay back debts that in some cases topped \$200,000 – an impossible repayment schedule, considering mortgage payments, car payments, groceries and other household costs. In addition, New York City workers are being told to repay their gross salaries, though they only received the net. "Even if you saved every penny of your second salary, you are still about 30 percent short," says Zak, McMahon's chief deputy.

It also means Guard and reservists will pay taxes on the same income twice. And it's too late for many of them to amend their returns and recover any of the duplicate taxes.

The result? "Basically you are being given a war tax for being a soldier and working for New York City," says Goodman, who also is treasurer of

Congress proposes relief measures

More than half of the businesses surveyed by Workforce Management said they would not hire a citizen soldier if they knew that individual could be called up for an indeterminate amount of time, say Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., who introduced a bill earlier this year to help solve some of the employment problems faced by reservists and members of the National Guard. "Long call-ups have made it hard for small businesses to be supportive of civilian soldiers," Kerry said.

The Active Duty Military Tax Relief Act of 2007 proposes to:

- Provide tax credits to businesses with fewer than 100 employees in cases where the businesses make up the difference between a worker's civilian pay and their military pay during deployment. Self-employed members of the Guard and reserves would receive a similar tax credit.
- Provide an additional tax credit to help offset the cost of hiring temporary employees to fill the vacancies created by deployments.

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., is reintroducing the Hope at Home Act, which would:

- Require the federal government to provide differential pay to its employees.
- Provide tax credit to employers who provide differential pay to their employees.
- Provide tax credits to self-employed members of the National Guard and reserves who are called to active duty, based on the difference between their military pay and the salaries they earn from their businesses.
- Exempt all pay – both military pay and differential pay provided by civilian employers – from income taxes when a member of the Guard or reserve components is in a combat zone.

American Legion Post 460. "I have guys who have gotten out of the National Guard because of this. They tell me they can't afford to be deployed."

National Guard Spc. James Martinez, an EMT with the New York City Fire Department, faces additional complications. Martinez sustained a serious back injury after a suicide bomber slipped into a U.S. military mess tent in Mosul, Iraq, in December 2004 and sent shrapnel hurtling through the lunch crowd. The lingering effects of the injury make it difficult for him to work overtime, which he normally depended upon to deal with New York City's high cost of living, not to

mention repay the \$26,000 the city claims he owes.

"Before deployment, we were looking forward to starting a family," Martinez says. "Now that's financially difficult."

Not all cities and private companies make it so tough on returning Guardsmen and reservists. The Los Angeles Police Department received the 2005 Department of Defense Employer Support of Freedom Award for its outstanding efforts. LAPD makes up the difference between military pay and police department pay "penny for penny," says police officer Dennis DeNoi, a retired Marine master sergeant and military liaison for the department. Medical, life and dental insurance, city pension contributions, promotions and pay increases continue as if each Guardsman and reservist were never deployed.

"They have shown the utmost respect for the military," says LAPD Officer Brandon Valdez, a sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserve, who nominated the department for the award after he returned from Iraq.

The MGM Mirage hotel and gaming company, which received one of the 2006 awards, not only continues paying employees serving on active duty but also gives them a stipend equal to their average tip income. Health, pension and other benefits continue at no cost to the employees.

The State of Minnesota, with nearly 3,000 National Guard troops serving in Iraq, also provides differential pay and full benefits. Now Gov. Tim Pawlenty is proposing exempting all military pay and pensions from state income tax.

"From our perspective, we should do everything we can to support our men and women who are deployed," said Brian McClung, the governor's spokesman. "Making sure their families can pay their bills and meet their obligations seems like the least we can do."

These examples are not lost on New York City Councilman Michael McMahon. He is pushing the city to reconsider its punitive approach to differential repayment.

"There are still so many factors the Department of Citywide Administrative Services isn't taking into consideration – particularly the tax ramifications, particularly the overtime and night differential (income city employees gave up when they were deployed)," McMahon says.

Where to turn for answers

The following resources offer information and assistance for members of the National Guard and reserves who have questions about employment, differential pay and other issues.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

(800) 336-4590
www.esgr.mil

U.S. Department of Labor
(866) 487-2365
www.dol.gov/vets

Military OneSource
www.militaryonesource.com
(800) 342-9647

Armed Forces Legal Assistance
<http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>

Guard and reserve members who are dealing with municipal pay issues in New York City can contact:

American Legion NYPD Post 460
www.nypdpost.org

Amy Maniscalco
Family Readiness Coordinator, TAC II,
42nd Infantry Division
(917) 533-3399

Many city workers also gave up second and third jobs when they were activated, a financial loss often overlooked.

"Because the computations are so convoluted, because quite a few workers have retired, because of the tax ramifications and because of the havoc it would wreck in so many lives, the best solution is forgiveness of the outstanding balance, and, moving forward, establishing a system that is more clearly defined and uniformly enforced," McMahon says. He favors giving city workers who are called to arms in the future half of their city pay and continuing their benefits without any repayment provision. The Metropolitan Transit Authority, which operates New York's subways, trains and buses, has successfully used that approach.

Meanwhile, New York City had a \$4 billion surplus in 2006 and is considering giving real-estate owners \$1 billion in tax breaks, a proposal that greatly disturbs those who came home from serving their country to face huge debts from their employers.

"We say we support our troops," McMahon says. "All of the rhetoric is pretty meaningless if we are going to put these people in the poor house." ¶

Ken Olsen is a freelance writer from Spokane, Wash.

"As a professional restorer of antique and classic watches for museums, including the Smithsonian, I recently reviewed the movement and individual parts of the Stauer 1779 Skeleton watch. The assembly and the precision of the mechanical movement are excellent."

—George Thomas
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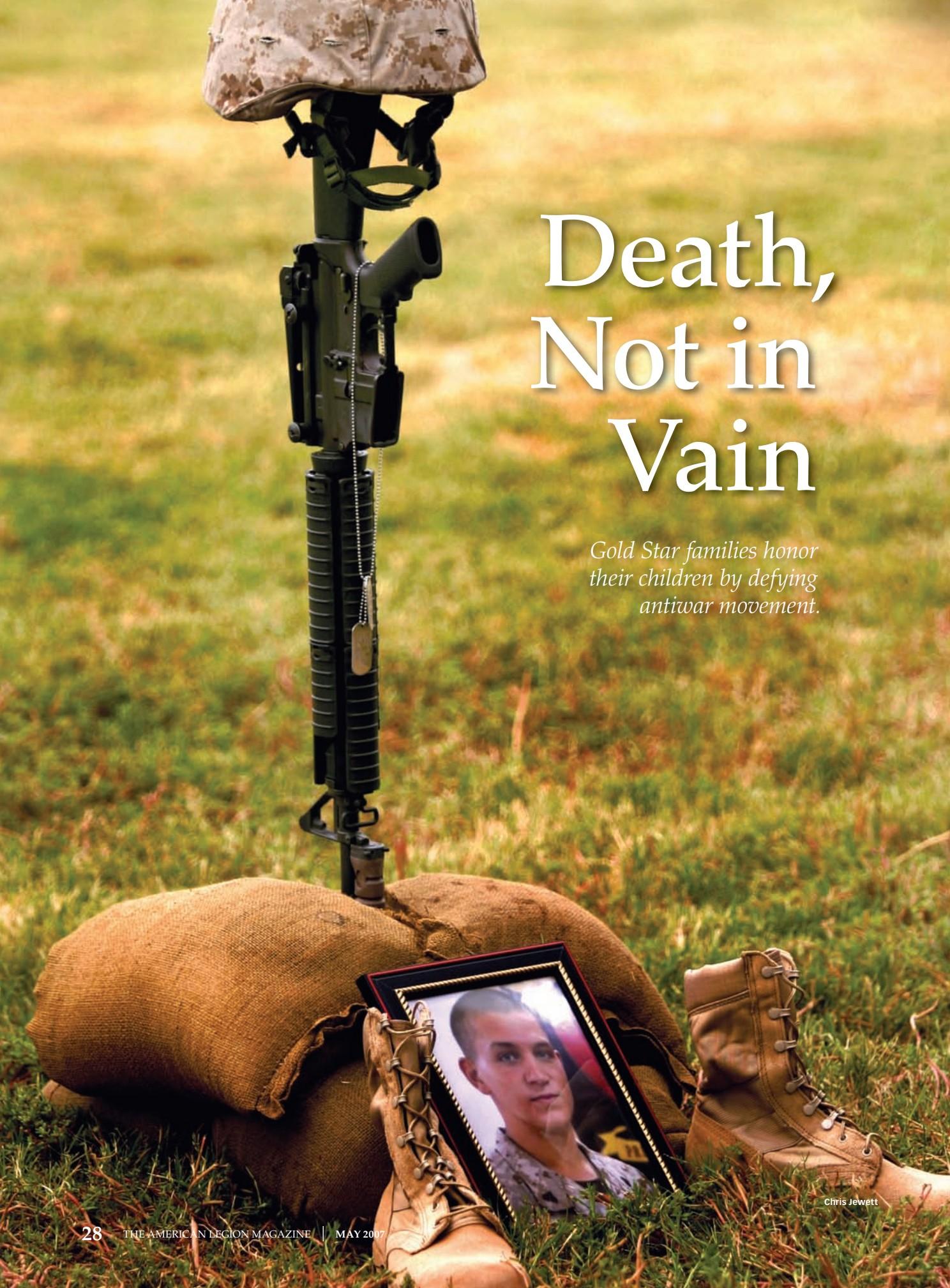
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Chris Jewett

BY MATT GRILLS

From the day their son arrived in Iraq, Tony and Amy Galvez could tell you what time it was over there, whatever the hour. "I would wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning and know it was 2 in the afternoon," Amy says. "It was my deployment, too."

Marine Cpl. Adam Galvez, 21, served with the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion out of Twentynine Palms, Calif., conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar province. On July 29, a roof fell in on him when a suicide bomber detonated a truck full of explosives outside a building in Rawah. Galvez dug his way out of the rubble, allowing himself to be medically evacuated for an injured ankle only after he had helped free other Marines.

"That was the most peaceful time I had, because I knew he was safe then," Amy says of Adam's brief hospital stay. Offered an opportunity to return to the United States, Galvez decided to stay with Delta Company. With only a month left in his tour, having survived a building collapse, the worst seemed to be behind him. "Once you feel they've dodged that bullet, so to speak, you think you're home free," his mother says.

Still, every time Amy Galvez heard a car door shut outside their Salt Lake City home, she couldn't help but wonder if this might be it – the visit feared by every U.S. military parent, the one that begins with the words, "I'm sorry." When that moment arrived, last Aug. 20, Amy was at the computer, sending out e-mails to pull together a rally the next week. Antiwar activists had planned to protest outside The American Legion's 88th National Convention downtown, where President Bush was scheduled to speak, and she wanted just as many or more people there to counter them by showing support for the troops. Hearing a noise out front, she looked through the blinds to see two Marines coming up the walk.

Earlier that day, Adam and two other members of his battalion were killed when

their vehicle rolled over a pressure-sensitive explosive device, they told Amy. She recalls feeling disbelief first, then shock. How could it be? It didn't make sense. She'd talked to Adam less than 24 hours earlier. Suddenly, unexpectedly, a war that had claimed the lives of nearly 2,600 U.S. servicemembers at that point had claimed one more. Her son wouldn't be coming home alive.

Nine months later, the pain remains, but Tony and Amy Galvez refuse to retreat from their support of the war and the U.S. military fighting it. Even as the media offer a platform to Cindy Sheehan and other grieving parents opposed to the war, they want Americans to understand that they, too, have a message: their son did not die in vain. Cpl. Adam Galvez and thousands like him gave their lives for their country, and for a free Iraq.

Power of Words. Tony didn't see the Marines' car as he approached the house that day. At Amy's request, they had driven up the street, out of sight, so she could tell her husband herself. "It was like somebody hit me with a two-by-four," Tony says. First came anger, then denial. Not Adam. "In half an hour I went through all the stages of grief, I think. I describe it as being like a tidal wave, a tsunami, just knocking you down and throwing you around. You get up and go, 'Whoa, what was that?' Then the next wave comes and hits you, and you go, 'OK, that one wasn't quite as bad,' and the next wave's a little less. But then the big wave comes again and you think, 'Where'd that come from? I thought I was done.'"

The timing was unbelievable. Even as the Galvez family mourned, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson announced he'd appear with Sheehan at an antiwar rally scheduled for Aug. 30 – the day of Adam's burial. (Sheehan ended up cancelling.) Then, to make things worse, the infamous Westboro Baptist Church of Kansas issued a press release saying its members planned to picket Adam's

service. Criticized for crashing military funerals with signs proclaiming that dead U.S. soldiers are God's judgment on America for homosexuality, the church said Galvez died "in shame," and declared, "Thank God for IEDs," or improvised explosive devices.

The Westboro group never showed, but 130 Patriot Guard riders did, along with Utah's governor, two senators, three city police departments and dozens of Marines. "Your son will be remembered as a hero," Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. assured Tony and Amy at the service. "You should be very, very proud."

The American Legion also came to the couple's defense. Two hours before Anderson blasted President Bush at his rally, calling the U.S. invasion "illegal and immoral," then-National Commander Thomas L. Bock read a statement from Tony and Amy Galvez to a crowd of thousands outside the Salt Palace Convention Center. "While our forefathers gave us the right and privilege to challenge our leaders, the manner and method that some people have chosen to use at this time only emboldens the enemy," they wrote. "All Americans and political officials must carefully consider their words and actions, for they can, in fact, increase the danger to our troops and adversely impact their efforts."

Their feelings haven't changed. "People may not agree with the reason we went to war, but while our troops are over there, we can't be telling the world that what they are doing is wrong," Amy says. "If we say we support them, we have to support what they're doing."

In a recent letter to *The Salt Lake Tribune*, Amy took the city's mayor to the woodshed, accusing him of undermining the mission of U.S. troops. "If you didn't know the difference, one might think by listening to Rocky Anderson it was President Bush setting those improvised explosive devices," she wrote, pointing out that the day she buried her son, Anderson missed an opportunity to pay his respects and instead belittled the job Adam and his fellow Marines did by slandering their commander in chief.

"Are more servicemen and women returning the way my son did, in a casket, as a result of our words and actions? I believe the answer is yes," she continued. "The perception of a weak American military, should we lose, will make our enemy stronger than we ever imagined. Because we don't want to be at war anymore doesn't mean the war is over."

"We Need to Be Here." Brett Allred and his wife, Zell, also support Bush's decision to send U.S. troops to Iraq in 2003. Like the Galvez family, they have paid a great personal price, losing their son, Marine Lance Cpl. Michael Allred, 22, in a suicide bombing near Fallujah three years ago. Even so, they reject any talk of withdrawing our forces before the country is stabilized.

"One of the last things he told us was, 'We need to be here, but it's going to be hard, and it's going to be a long time,'" recalls Allred, who grew up in the Middle East. His father worked in the oil fields of Somalia, then Libya. After the 1969 military coup that put



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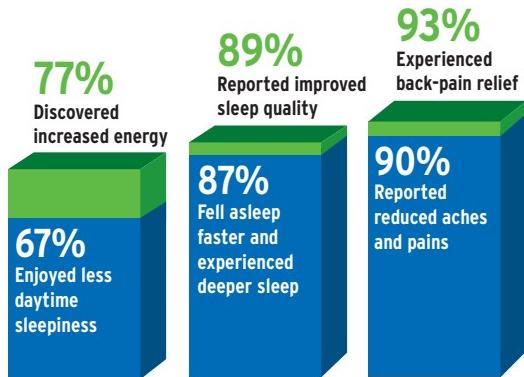


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Muammar Qadhafi in power, conditions began to deteriorate, and they returned to the United States. Living among Muslims convinced Allred that the region's peoples do not want to be ruled by tyrants. "They want freedom, like you and I," he says.

During World War II, military experts estimated that an Iwo Jima invasion would last a week and cost a few hundred American lives, Allred points out. Six weeks and 7,000 losses later, U.S. forces captured the island on their way to victory in the Pacific. Where is the public's patience and determination to win an equally crucial battle against America-hating terrorists in Iraq? "We shouldn't quit just because it's not looking good right now," he says.

Allred tends to question opinion polls claiming the majority of Americans want a pullout. He hopes they don't. And he says the soldiers and Marines he's met agree with him.

"They don't think a person can support the troops but not the mission," he says. "The troops *are* the mission. It's like saying you support your college basketball team but don't want them to play because somebody might sprain his ankle."

When the Allreds heard about Galvez's death, they traveled 90 miles from their home in Hyde Park, Utah, to visit his parents in Salt Lake City. Their mutual losses, and their strong support of the Iraq war, have helped forge a bond between them and other Gold Star parents across the state, including Colleen Parkin of West Valley City.

Parkin's son, Marine Cpl. Matthew Smith, 24, died in a helicopter crash near Rutbah, Iraq, on Jan. 26, 2005. Thirty Marines and one sailor were killed, making it one of the single worst incidents in terms of U.S. casualties since the war began.

"He always wanted to be in the military," Parkin says of her son, who at 8 years old sketched pictures of Marine helicopters eerily

similar to the CH-53E in which he was killed. "He'd say, 'Mom, I want to protect you and my country.' He knew he was doing the right thing when he went to Iraq. So I really want us to finish what we started over there. That's what he would have wanted."

On a trip to Washington, Parkin found herself defending her views when a war protester confronted her in an elevator. "Obviously, you don't know the whole story," she told the woman, who listened as Parkin described how U.S. actions have improved the lives of Iraq's women and children – and how her son, Matthew, knew the risks when he enlisted after 9/11 and volunteered anyway.

"When I said I believe in the war, she just jumped all over me, but it turned out she knew no one who has served or died," Parkin says. "I would hope people would ask some of us parents how *we* feel. There are more of us than there are Sheehans."

New Meaning. One of the hardest days for military parents who have lost a son or

daughter in war is the day that soldier's or Marine's unit returns home. Tony and Amy Galvez knew a month before Marines of the 3rd LAR walked off the bus that Adam wouldn't be among them. Nothing can make up for that, but on Feb. 1, Adam's Corps buddies gave his parents the closest thing they could to a homecoming when they chartered a bus from Twentynine Palms, Calif., to be at the unveiling of Adam Galvez Street in Salt Lake City.

As the group of 50 Marines got off the bus, "I was in heaven," Amy says. "They all knew Adam, and over dinner they told us stories about him, many of which we'd never heard. It was beyond anything we thought it would be." They talked about how he had loved to snowboard, play baseball and fix cars. He also loved his family. "There was no question there," she adds. "We knew. What struck me was that his friends knew, too, how much he loved us."

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Tony and Amy Galvez join their daughter Sarah and son Travis, far right, in applauding the official unveiling of Adam Galvez Street in Salt Lake City on Feb. 2. About 50 Marines from Galvez's battalion attended. **Stephen Holt**

The next day, street signs bearing the fallen Marine's name went up along a stretch of 300 South between Interstate 15 and Redwood Road in Salt Lake City.

The idea to rename the street came from a Boy Scout. During a ceremony at a nearby elementary school, Junior Cruz, 15, told a crowded gymnasium that he decided to pursue naming a street for Adam Galvez as an Eagle Scout project. If streets could be named for Utah Jazz basketball players, he figured, why not a Marine?

The Poplar Grove community and the Salt Lake City Council agreed, unanimously, and Boy Scout Troop 987 raised \$2,000 to replace 20 street signs.

The Galvezes have heard that Rocky Anderson opposed the sign, or at least wanted "300 South" to overshadow their son's name. They aren't sure about that, but they do know the mayor has never expressed his condolences about their loss, nor did he attend the street-naming ceremony. Lately, he's been calling for President Bush's impeachment, which they take quite personally. "I'm not accusing anyone of causing my son's death, but the antiwar crowd is shifting momentum from the U.S. military to the

enemy," Amy says. "We've got to support the troops and the mission. The two are dependent on each other."

As Memorial Day approaches, the Galvez family plans to attend a remembrance in Washington, where they hope to meet with other families of America's war dead, including the young men who died beside their son. They'll also visit Arlington National Cemetery. "The day has a different meaning for us now," Amy says. "I imagine it will be very hard, though it won't be harder than what we've already gone through."

In her view, their grief isn't as difficult as what lies ahead for soldiers and Marines coming back from battle with severe injuries and psychological trauma. For their sake, and for those who have made the supreme sacrifice in this war, the United States must prevail in Iraq. "I told President Bush last summer that the biggest insult anyone could hand me would be to pull the troops out before the job is complete," she says. "If we're going to quit, at that point I'll have to ask, 'Why did my son die?'" ☀

Matt Grills is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.

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MINIMIZING THE HOLOCAUST

How enemies of the West are succeeding at dismissing history's darkest hour.

BY ALAN M. DERSHOWITZ

Ever since American GIs liberated the first Nazi death camps, the world has been stunned and disgusted by the magnitude of the Third Reich's genocidal crimes.

While touring the forward areas of the First and Third armies in 1945, Allied Gen. Dwight Eisenhower wrote Gen. George C. Marshall:

The most interesting – although horrible – sight that I encountered during the trip was a visit to a German internment camp near Gotha. The things I saw beggar description ... The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were so overpowering as to leave me a bit sick. In one room, where they piled up twenty or thirty naked men, killed by starvation, George Patton would not even enter. He said he would get

sick if he did so. I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in position to give firsthand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to "propaganda."

Eisenhower's eyewitness testimony was compelling. The testimony of thousands more around the globe was overwhelming and tragic. The documentation brought forth of Hitler's crimes against children, the aged, women, families and other civilians – at Nuremberg and in subsequent years, through the work of tireless researchers seeking to comprehend, through interviews and the conservation of documents, the horror of those events – simply can't be denied. No rational person could doubt that the programmatic slaughter of millions



of innocent civilians had occurred under German auspices and right under our noses. The Germans kept scrupulous records of the genocide they were committing, and these records are available for all to read, along with eyewitness accounts, many of which are videotaped.

Now try to imagine Eisenhower's shock and dismay – and that of the hundreds of thousands of liberators and survivors – if he could learn that only 60 years after his eyewitness testimony, the denial of these horrors as mere “propaganda” has not only occurred but is on the rise around the globe. Indeed, in recent years, Holocaust denial has become not only more and more prominent, but more acceptable across the world – especially in parts of Europe.

This ascent of historical revisionism – euphemistic for bigotry and hatred – has now become a subject of study, replete with journals, centers and so-called experts. This pseudo-science reached its zenith with the Holocaust denial conference in Iran late last year. The conference, which included speeches by David Duke, the Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, brought together 67 “researchers” from 30 countries under the banner of

“intellectual freedom” to make mendacious claims – for example, that as few as 2,000 people died at the Auschwitz death camps. The German government itself concluded that as many as 1.6 million died at Auschwitz. Its commandant, who was executed following the war, confessed to complicity in the genocide.

This propaganda effort is part of an even more widespread phenomenon that – while on its face seems less shocking than outright denial – is in a way far more insidious. We might call it Holocaust minimization. Rather than outright deny the Holocaust, so-called scholars claim to be revising the history of the Holocaust to be more “accurate,” and in so doing, dramatically misrepresent its actual scope and magnitude.

Pseudo-scholars like Norman Finkelstein – an anti-American and anti-Israel propagandist who teaches at DePaul University and is up for tenure – attempt to take away the uniqueness of the Holocaust by alleging that massacres of equal size are commonplace in history – an argument that is demonstrably false. Further, Finkelstein tries to deny justice to Holocaust survivors by alleging that their attempts to reclaim their property and

assets after the war were the creation of a Jewish industry based on greed rather than justice. He and his supporters accuse witnesses like Elie Wiesel of lying about their accounts. He denies the reality of the survivors. In this respect, as one survivor told me, he is worse than a Holocaust denier because he denies the experiences of those still living. By misdirection, or by eating away at the uniqueness of the Holocaust at the margin, these minimalists subvert the legacy and the lessons of a genocide unparalleled in human history.

Finkelstein's research has been trashed by real scholars. University of Chicago professor Peter Novick warns, "No facts alleged by Finkelstein should be assumed to be really facts, no quotations in his book should be assumed to be accurate, without taking the time to carefully compare his claims with the sources he cites ... Such an examination reveals that many of those assertions are pure invention."

Neo-Nazis and outright Holocaust deniers love Finkelstein. Listen to Ernst Zundel, the notorious Hitler lover and Holocaust denier who is now in prison in Germany, who says Finkelstein is "exceedingly useful to us and to the Revisionist cause. He is making three-fourths of our argument, and making it effectively. Never fret – the rest of the argument is being made by us, and will topple the lie within our lifetime. We would not be making vast inroads in Europe with our outreach program, were it not for his courageous little booklet, 'The Holocaust Industry.'"

Zundel's wife and fellow Neo-Nazi, Ingrid Rimland, refers to Finkelstein admiringly as the "Jewish David Irving" – a reference to the well-known Holocaust denier and admirer of Hitler. Finkelstein himself admires Irving's dubious research.

Finkelstein is also an admirer of Hezbollah, the terrorist organization that killed hundreds of U.S. soldiers in Lebanon. He is on record as saying that his "chief regret is that I wasn't even more forceful in publicly defending Hezbollah against terrorist intimidation and attack."

It is not surprising, therefore, that when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his henchmen created a list of the most virulent Holocaust deniers in the world to invite to their notorious Holocaust "conference" in Tehran last year, high among those on the list were the neo-Nazi David Duke and Norman Finkelstein. Finkelstein's name appeared on the schedule alongside Duke's, though apparently Finkelstein, at the last minute,



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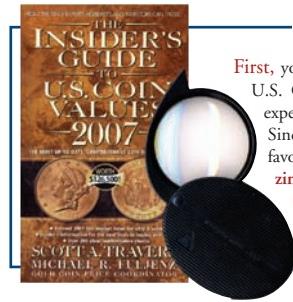
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decided not to appear. The reason Finkelstein offered for eventually declining the invitation had nothing to do with any principled opposition to being a speaker at such an anti-Semitic event. Instead, he claimed that negotiations with the Iranians broke down over details. He says that he wanted “at least 45 minutes to speak” but they wouldn’t agree to his conditions.

Despite his shoddy reputation and close association with Neo-Nazis, and perhaps because of it, Finkelstein continues to be a popular speaker on college campuses around the country and throughout the world. He is invited by hard-left, anti-American and anti-Israel groups that are the first to demand that U.S. Army recruiters be kept off campus. His message of Holocaust minimization and Holocaust justice denial is being accepted by more and more young radicals.

Still others, including historian Jörg Friedrich, try to deflect German guilt for the Holocaust by claiming moral equivalency between the Allied bombings of Dresden and the extermination of the Jews and others by the Reich. This view completely disregards that Dresden, while taking a terrible civilian toll, was a legitimate act of belligerent reprisal for the relentless bombing of civilians in London and elsewhere.

These same apologists for Hitler’s crimes attack the conduct of U.S. leaders and heroes – heroes like Dwight Eisenhower. A popular myth of late alleges that Eisenhower set up death camps for Nazi POWs after the fall of Berlin, starving millions to death as an act of revenge on behalf of his Jewish ancestry. In reality, according to Eisenhower biographer and the late historian Stephen Ambrose, Eisenhower faced a food crisis across

Europe, a result of the continent’s decimation. The postwar death toll is estimated at less than 1 million, a far cry from the 6 million innocents who perished at the hands of the Nazis with absolutely no military justification. The postwar suffering of the German population was a result of the war, not a result of Eisenhower’s malice, nor of a deliberate U.S. policy.

What is the ultimate effect of these efforts to minimize or outright deny the Holocaust and the unique suffering of its victims? It should go without saying that these people enable, justify and encourage anti-Semitism, of which there is a rising tide in Europe. But further, and perhaps less obviously, Holocaust denial is a form of anti-Americanism. By denying the magnitude of the Holocaust – or by claiming somehow that the Allies perpetrated comparable crimes on the German people to even the score – deniers and minimizers downplay the contribution of American GIs who fought to end the horror of Nazism and to liberate the people held in the murderous grip of the Reich.

Holocaust denial is anti-truth, anti-Semitic, anti-American and anti-democracy. In America, where free speech prevails, Holocaust deniers have the constitutional right to express their bigoted views. But all decent Americans have the obligation to defeat them in this marketplace of ideas, just as our greatest generation of soldiers defeated their predecessors on the battlefield. ¶

Alan M. Dershowitz is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard University. His most recent book is “Preemption: A Knife That Cuts Both Ways” (W.W. Norton, 2006).

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The Biggest Little City in the World



Reno-Tahoe, America's Adventure Place

Historic Reno ready to welcome The American Legion for its 89th National Convention.

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

Historic Reno, Nev., known as "The Biggest Little City in the World," plays host this summer to The American Legion's 89th National Convention. The high-desert gathering of the world's largest veterans organization is scheduled for Aug. 24 to 30 at the Reno/Sparks Convention Center.

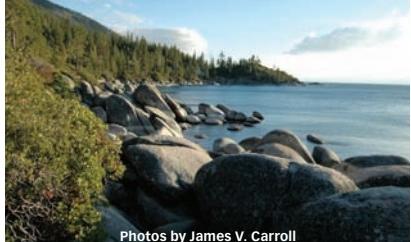
Nestled snuggly up against the eastern border of California, beneath the towering Sierra Nevada mountain range, the cities of Reno, Virginia City and state capital Carson City share a mother lode of legend and lore.

When they are not enjoying the sites, history and excitement of the area, Legionnaires will take on some of the most important issues facing the United States today, including support for the global war on terrorism, health-care issues for veterans and troops in VA and DoD facilities, and illegal

immigration. Delegates will also vote on a number of resolutions affecting children and youth, internal affairs and membership. They will elect a new national commander and set legislative priorities.

When the work is done, and it's time for some R&R, few places in the western United States offer such a rich and varied array of indoor and outdoor activities. The downtown area offers entertainment, shopping, restaurants, an arts and cultural district, historic walking tours, the Nevada Museum of Art and the National Automobile Museum. Hiking, biking, kayaking, boating, golf, fishing and other activities are available within 30 minutes of downtown.

Access to Reno's many casinos is made easy by hopping aboard The Sierra Spirit, the Washoe County Regional Transportation



Photos by James V. Carroll

Day tripping out of Reno

1 Virginia City: A 26-mile drive to the southeast lands you in the middle of historic Virginia City, hub of the Comstock Lode. Authentic steam-engine rides offer visitors a chance to view the remains of gold and silver claims. Visitors can walk the streets and boarded sidewalks once traversed by Mark Twain and stop to pan for gold. Virginia City was such a promising boomtown that for many years it possessed the only elevator to be found between Chicago and California. During its peak, it was home to nearly 30,000. Today fewer than 1,000 people live here.

2 Carson City: Rich history, casinos and golf are among the attractions that draw visitors from around the world to Nevada's capital, only a half-hour drive from Reno. From the statehouse at the center of downtown, visitors are just a stone's throw away from Lake Tahoe to the west, Virginia City to the east, Reno to the north and Genoa to the south. Named after frontiersman Kit Carson, the capital has been the shooting location for scenes in nearly two dozen films. John Wayne acted in his last picture, "The Shootist," in Carson City's historic district. James Caan and Kathy Bates visited Carson City to film scenes for the horror flick "Misery" on old U.S. 50. Scenes were shot in Fuji Park for "Pink Cadillac," starring Clint Eastwood and Bernadette Peters.

3 Lake Tahoe: The deepest alpine lake in the United States, Lake Tahoe's scenic views are breathtaking in both winter and summer. California and Nevada state highways pass through the historic California settlements of South Lake Tahoe and Tahoe City, as well as Stateline, Nev. Scores of parks and recreation areas ring the 199-square-mile lake, and a number of companies offer lake cruises and sailing for the more adventurous. Lake Tahoe is home to many fine restaurants and casinos catering to visitors. The Cal Neva Resort, once owned by Frank Sinatra, has a marked state line running through its swimming pool.



Commission's free downtown bus service. Riders can get on and off Sierra Spirit buses at stops located within easy walking distance of any attraction.

Visitors should expect hot summer days, but as the locals like to say, "It's a dry heat." Situated in a valley 4,400 feet in elevation, Reno's summertime 90-degree to 100-degree daytime temperatures are tempered by low humidity and cool nights.

In the late 1840s and 1850s, thousands of travelers passed through the Reno area to seek fortune in the California gold fields. They rested along the Truckee River before making an arduous trek over the jagged Sierra Nevadas. Many hastily retraced their steps upon learning of gold and silver strikes south of Reno.

The discovery of the Comstock Lode in

1859 gave rise to numerous boomtowns like Virginia City, Gold Hill, Silver City and Dayton. In turn, the riches generated by the Comstock resulted in the development of outlying communities such as Carson City and Reno, which had become an agricultural center and transportation hub for people and goods to and from the Comstock.

Today, gaming plays a key role in Reno's economy. But the city's early economic success was tied to the boom-and-bust industries of mining and agriculture. During bust periods, Reno survived by fostering gambling and prostitution, earning it the title "Sin City." Nevada officials eventually gave up trying to control gambling in the state, partly out of frustration and partly out of economic necessity.

Seeking ways to survive the Depression,

Nevada legalized gambling in 1931. It quickly flourished in Reno.

In the early and mid-1900s, Reno also became a well-known gathering place for celebrities seeking quick divorces. In 1927, competing for the migratory divorce trade, Nevada cut its already generous six-month residency requirement to three months, and in 1931 slashed its waiting period to obtain a divorce to six weeks. In the decade between 1929 and 1939, the Washoe County Courthouse granted more than 30,000 divorces, and Reno became widely known as the divorce capital of the world.

The completion of the Lincoln Highway through Reno on its way to the California state line opened a new economic opportunity to the city: automobile tourism. In 1928, Reno officials decided the city needed a permanent slogan and offered \$100 in a contest to supplant less than flattering, unofficial taglines linked to the city's rowdy past. "Reno: Biggest Little City in the World" won out.

The original historic lighted arch still shines today at its new location on Lake Street south of the Truckee River between State and First streets. A jazzed-up brighter version of the sign has replaced the original arch on Virginia Street near the railroad ditch in downtown Reno.

Whether it's history, scenery, gaming, shopping or dining, Reno is a place to experience some of the best of what the West has to offer. But a word of caution is in order: pace yourself. Unless you plan to spend the entire summer exploring the Grand Basin area, there are many more activities than you will have time to enjoy.

So, as folks at the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority say, "pick your pleasure – headliner shows, world-class dining, hot nightclubs or any of your favorite casino games – and play the night away." ☺

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.



Matt Morning

The Grand Sierra

*Convention headquarters hotel
is a city within a city.*

Legionnaires who wish to dine, play or relax may never want to leave the Grand Sierra hotel complex, headquarters hotel of the 89th National Convention. The Grand Sierra is one of five hotels in our American Legion "official" housing block.

Situated on 42 acres, the complex has nearly 2,000 rooms and suites, all of which boast large bathrooms, writing desks, comfortable chairs and premium television channels.

The Grand Sierra's 115,000-square-foot casino is the largest in northern Nevada. It offers dozens of table games and hundreds of slot machines accepting denominations from one penny to \$100. The poker room has seven tables with a range of games and limits. The SuperBook race and sports book has a full-service bar and 27 big-screen televisions to watch games and races.

The hotel also has an outdoor heated pool and sauna, health club with free weights and equipment, walking and jogging tracks, miniature golf course and driving range. Those who like speed can climb into a half-scale NASCAR replica car on one of three go-kart tracks at the hotel. And the whole family can have fun at the 40,000-square-foot Fun Quest arcade, which offers games, simulator rides, laser-tag arenas and more.

A 70,000-square-foot shopping mall inside the complex includes 20 stores offering sundries, clothing, jewelry and more. The hotel also features two theaters: a 1,750-seat auditorium that regularly hosts headliners, and an 8,500-seat outdoor venue where some of the biggest stars in music perform. Live jazz, '80s music and R&B play nightly at The Garage nightclub and lounge inside the hotel.

The hotel has nine dining options, including two 24-hour restaurants. Guests can choose traditional casino coffee-shop fare, Chevy's Fresh Mex south of the border food, the Steak House, hamburgers at Johnny Rockets, noodles at Asiana, or Italian at Andiamo's.

“If I told you that I can end a lifetime of foot pain instantly, you probably wouldn’t believe me...”

“Half a million other men and women didn’t either ... until they tried this revolutionary European discovery that positively killed their foot pain dead!”

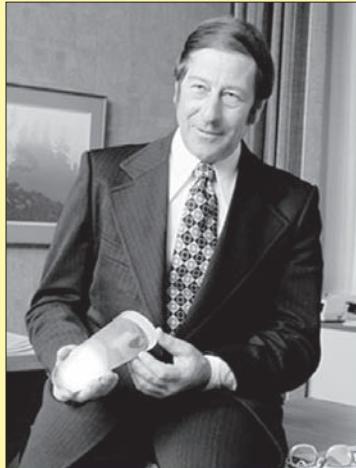
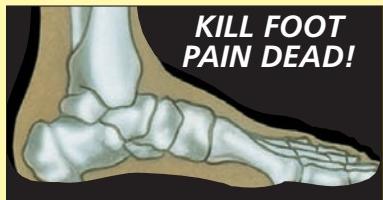
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“How can I make such an unprecedented guarantee? Because I personally lived in

constant, agonizing foot pain for years before my exciting

discovery. What started out as simple aching from corns and calluses grew into full-blown, incapacitating misery only a few other foot pain sufferers could understand.”

“Believe me, I tried all the so-called remedies I could get my hands on (and feet into), but none of them really worked. It wasn’t until my wife and I took a trip to Europe that I discovered a remarkable invention called Flexible Featherspring® Foot Supports. Invented in Germany, these custom-formed foot supports absorb shock as they cradle your feet as if on a cushion of air.”



Harvey Rothschild
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MAN OF

Hero of Operation Iraqi Freedom exemplified what it means to be a Marine.



James V. Carroll

HONOR

Since World War II, more than half of those who have been awarded the Medal of Honor have lost their lives in the action that earned it. Cpl. Jason Dunham belongs to this select group.

President George W. Bush,

in a Jan. 11 ceremony in the East Room of the White House, where he presented Dunham's parents their son's Medal of Honor

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

A few weeks before Jason Dunham's war ended, he and two other Marines exchanged theories about how to survive a hand-grenade attack, *Wall Street Journal* reporter Michael M. Phillips wrote in his 2005 book, "The Gift of Valor – A War Story."

Second Lt. Brian "Bull" Robinson suggested that if you lie face down and hold the grenade between your forearms, the ceramic bulletproof plate in your flak vest might be strong enough to protect your vital organs. Your arms would shatter, but you might live, according to Phillips' account of the exchange among Marines.

Robinson later remembered that Cpl. Dunham had another idea: "I'll bet a Kevlar helmet would stop it."

"No," Staff Sgt. John Ferguson responded. "It'll still mess you up."

It was a conversation the men would remember vividly a few weeks later, when they gazed upon the shredded remains of Dunham's helmet, blown apart from the inside by a grenade. The helmet contained most of the blast, as Dunham predicted. He gave his life testing the theory but saved two other Marines on April 14, 2004.

On a dusty road in western Iraq, Cpl. Dunham gave his own life so that the men under his command might live.

Jason L. Dunham grew up in Scio, N.Y., a small town 80 miles southeast of Buffalo. He was a basketball, soccer and baseball star at Scio Central School, where his .414 single-season batting average still stands as the record. He never thought of himself as a hero.

He was well-liked by his teammates and was a loyal friend. They say he was usually more concerned about the welfare of others than of his own. It was a quality he took with him to the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps took the best of this young man and made it better.

The 22-year-old machine gunner for Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, was manning a checkpoint outside Husaybah when it happened. He got into a scuffle with an enemy insurgent who had jumped out of a vehicle the Marines were about to search. As they wrestled, the Iraqi dropped a grenade to the ground. Dunham removed his Kevlar helmet and jumped on it.

**MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION
CORPORAL JASON L. DUNHAM**

U.S. Marine Corps, Company K, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division

Place and date: Karabilah, Iraq,

14 April 2004

Cpl. Dunham did not hesitate.

This morning it's my privilege to recognize Cpl. Dunham's devotion to the Corps and country – and to present his family with the Medal of Honor.

Dunham was airlifted to battalion headquarters in al Qa'im, where a medical team found that two fragments had penetrated his skull and a third had punctured his neck. His heart rate and blood pressure were stabilized and he was flown by helicopter to the 7th Marines' base at Al Asad.

Debra and Dan Dunham arrived at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on April 22 to learn that their son had nothing less than irreversible brain damage. He would spend the rest of his life on a respirator, doctors said, and he would never regain consciousness. Another operation to relieve pressure on his brain presented a significant chance of fatality. The outcome inevitable, the Dunhams reluctantly allowed doctors to remove life support from their son. At 4:43 p.m. on April 22, 2004, he died.

Although he survived the initial explosion, he did not survive his wounds. But by his selflessness, Cpl. Dunham saved the lives of two of his men and showed the world what it means to be a Marine.

"We're accepting this honor for Jason, but we're also accepting this in all the servicemen's and women's names," Debra Dunham said following the White House presentation. "We wish that Jason would have been able to be here, but we know he's watching."

The hero's father acknowledged the medal perhaps as his son would have wished, sharing it with all who serve. "They're all courageous. They all have valor. They're part of this medal. It's as much theirs as it is Jason's."

Dunham is the second U.S. serviceman to receive the Medal of Honor in the war on terrorism, and the first Marine to receive it since 1970, when Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith received the award posthumously based on his actions in Vietnam.

As a Marine, he was taught that honor, courage and commitment are not just words. They're core values for a way of life that elevates service above self. As a Marine, Jason was taught that leaders put the needs of their men before their own. He was taught that while America's founding truths are self-evident, they also need to be defended by good men and women willing to stand up to determined enemies. ☺

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifle Squad Leader, 4th Platoon, Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines (Reinforced), Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division (Reinforced), on 14 April 2004. Corporal Dunham's squad was conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard rocket-propelled grenade and small-arms fire erupt approximately two

kilometers to the west. Corporal Dunham led his Combined Anti-Armor Team towards the engagement to provide fire support to their Battalion Commander's convoy, which had been ambushed as it was traveling to Camp Husaybah. As Corporal Dunham and his Marines advanced, they quickly began to receive enemy fire. Corporal Dunham ordered his squad to dismount their vehicles and led one of his fire teams on foot several blocks south of the ambushed convoy. Discovering seven Iraqi vehicles in a column attempting to depart, Corporal Dunham and his team stopped the vehicles to search them for weapons. As they approached the vehicles, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Corporal Dunham. Corporal Dunham wrestled the insurgent to the ground and in the ensuing struggle saw the insurgent release a grenade. Corporal Dunham immediately alerted his fellow Marines to the threat. Aware of the imminent danger and without hesitation, Corporal Dunham covered the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his Marines from the blast. In an ultimate and selfless act of bravery in which he was mortally wounded, he saved the lives of at least two fellow Marines. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Corporal Dunham gallantly gave his life for his country, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

[WASHINGTON CONFERENCE]



James V. Carroll

'AMERICA MUST PREVAIL'

From a speech delivered by President George W. Bush at The American Legion's Washington Conference Legislative Rally on March 6:

"More than five years have passed since the attacks of September the 11th, 2001, and we find ourselves debating the causes of this conflict and the course we have followed. Yet even among our differences, there are a few questions that surely have been settled. One is that September the 11th was not only a crime but an act of war – a war waged by fanatics who believe it is their duty to kill Americans and impose their hateful ideology as far as they can spread it."

"Since 9/11, they have continued to try to attack us here at home. They're relentless, and they're determined. We stopped an al-Qaeda plot to fly a hijacked airplane into the tallest building on the West Coast. We stopped a Southeast Asian terror cell grooming operatives for attacks inside the United States. We stopped an al-Qaeda cell developing anthrax to be used in attacks against America. For each life saved, we owe a debt of gratitude to our military, and intelligence, and law-enforcement personnel who devote their lives to finding the terrorists and stopping them and protecting the American people ..."

"The fight in Iraq is more than a conflict in one country. It is part of a larger struggle against extremism that is unfolding across the broader Middle East. The extremists are fighting to take control of Iraq so they can establish it as a base from which to overthrow moderate governments in the region, and plan new attacks on the American people. If we fail in Iraq, the enemy will follow us home. Their success in Iraq would bring danger to America, and that is why America must prevail in Iraq."

LEGION TO WASHINGTON:

DON'T 'CUT AND RUN'

National Commander Paul A. Morin told Legionnaires attending the Washington Conference and Legislative Rally in early March that the world's largest veterans organization supports the troops and their mission alike in the global war on terrorism. The American Legion's Resolution 169, passed at the 2005 National Convention in Hawaii, was heartily reiterated at the annual conference, which included appearances by President George W. Bush, VA Secretary Jim Nicholson and members of Congress.

"America's veterans and their families do not want our nation to cut and run from this war," Morin said. "The enemy is expecting us to quit. They're counting on dissent on the American home front. We must prove them wrong."

President Bush received a standing ovation after he addressed congressional resistance to adding more troops to the theater and providing necessary funding to help them succeed. "Some in Congress have called for cutting off funds for our troops," the president said. "Now others in Congress are planning to use an emergency war spending bill that will provide funds for the war on terror as an opportunity to add on billions of dollars for unrelated domestic programs. Tacking extra domestic spending to an emergency war spending bill only will complicate Congress' ability to provide the support that our troops urgently need."

HEROES TO HOMETOWNS

Army Staff Sgt. Chris Bain was wounded on April 8, 2004, when insurgents attacked just as the convoy he commanded was rolling out on a mission.

A mortar explosion mangled his left hand, leaving him with the ability to do little else with it but make a fist. A bullet that entered his right elbow left him with nerve damage and lack of feeling in half of his right hand. The father of a son and two daughters, he remains optimistic and a supporter of the war on terrorism. One of many injured U.S. servicemembers helped through The American Legion's Heroes to Hometowns program based at the Pentagon, Bain spoke during the Legislative Rally at The American Legion's Washington Conference in March.



Also during the conference:

- Bush announced that a bipartisan commission will begin a comprehensive review of military and veteran health-care services after unacceptable facility conditions were revealed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "This review will examine their treatment from the time they leave the battlefield through their return to civilian life as veterans," Bush explained. (*See story, Page 54.*)
- Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., received a special award for his commitment to national security and to veterans. The citation reads, "For his long and distinguished public service to the people of Massachusetts and to America, first as an educator, then in local politics, then as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives; for his active role in maintaining the national security of this country; and for his continuing commitment to the welfare of veterans and their families."
- Hal Koster of The Aleethia Foundation was honored during the National Commander's Luncheon. The foundation's mission is to support newly injured troops with short-term therapeutic recreation. One of the programs is a Friday-night dinner for wounded servicemembers recovering at Walter Reed Army Hospital and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Koster has kept the dinners going, even after an unexpected lease termination ended them at their original venue, Fran O'Brien's Stadium Steakhouse in Washington.

— Steve Brooks

"You Legionnaires, you do great things for us. I got to be one of those lucky guys who got a hometown hero welcome. I'll never forget it. I felt like the president of the United States that day. They had a big dinner for me at Post 1 in Williamsport, Pa. They really went all out to make this happen for me."

"They call me 'T-Rex.' I have a big mouth and two hands I can't do anything with. But my big mouth is my voice, and I will be heard. I can't serve in this uniform anymore, but maybe I can put a suit and tie on, maybe go to (Capitol Hill) and raise a ruckus. Maybe I'll run for office."

"The American Legion is an organization I'm going to continue fighting for. I'd like to put out a challenge to everybody, to every district and every state: go find an OIF or OEF veteran, or any young vet you know. Motivate them to come into the Legion."



'A BATTLE OF WILLS'

From a speech given in Washington on March 6 by National Commander Paul A. Morin, reiterating The American Legion's position on the global war on terrorism, as stated in Resolution 169:

"Our nation stands at a critical juncture. Our enemies – the terrorists and rogue nations that support them – are watching us very closely right now. They have growing reason to believe that America is losing its stomach for war, and that their will is stronger than ours. That's the message sent to our enemies when Congress denies military commanders and the president the troops and resources necessary to succeed. It's the message the terrorists have been waiting for."

"The American Legion passed Resolution 169 in 2005 and reaffirmed it in 2006 ... a clear and unqualified message of support for U.S. troops fighting in the war against terrorism, for our nation's wartime leaders, and for their mission to dismantle terrorism and replace it with freedom and stability."

"You cannot divide the troops, the leadership and the mission. If you support the troops, you support what they are fighting for. If you reject the mission and the leadership, you erode their morale and fuel the enemy's confidence."

"Should we allow that to happen, our comrades will spend the rest of their years wondering why they were taken off a mission they were accomplishing ... a mission for which more than 3,100 have already laid down their lives. Should we allow that to happen, the world can expect terrorism to seize an unfinished Iraq and consume it ... Terrorism and those who support it are confident they can beat us in a battle of wills. We are here today to prove them wrong."

MEMORIAL DAY 2007

MIRRORED

TAPS

*Day is done,
gone the sun,
From the hills,
from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well,
safely rest,
God is nigh.*

*Fades the light;
And afar
Goeth day,
And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well;
Day has gone,
Night is on.*

*Thanks and praise,
For our days,
'Neath the sun,
'Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.*

R.M. Bozarth posted a description of a soldier's funeral on his blog. The soldier, Army Reserve Spc. Benjamin Slaven, right, served in Iraq with Bozarth's son. Bozarth's son responded via e-mail with his own account of a memorial service for Slaven, killed by a roadside bomb, he attended with soldiers in Iraq. These remembrances, on opposite sides of the world, reflect the deep roots of honor.



THE FIRST THING THAT HITS YOU ARE THE FLAGS.

Midwestern towns don't have suburbs. You'll be driving past corn fields, sometimes beans or wheat, then – *click* – just like that, you are inside the city limits. Today, there are flags. From tiny ones to a mammoth one flying from the extended boom of the fire company's ladder truck, they are everywhere. Some people have planted rows of them along the edges of lots. They billow from poles and hang from buildings. There are dozens of hand-lettered signs, too.

Turning north, the flags become even more numerous. One lawn has so many it's hard to see the church behind them. A bit further along is the church where we are going. Cars are lined up. Parking is tight.

Men and women stand shoulder to shoulder along the walkway. Each has a flag in hand. Some wear leathers with designs on the back. Patriot Guard. American Legion Riders. It's quite a gauntlet. They wave us in, and we thank them for being there.

We sign the register. A woman tells us the main floor is full. There's the balcony. A flag is draped over a wheeled cart of some sort. Poster boards are filled with pictures.

There are only a few remaining seats, even in the balcony.

We stand when asked. We sit when asked. We answer the responsive readings and help a woman next to us decipher the "green book," since she is obviously unfamiliar with Lutheran services. We sing, and we sing our very best to honor the occasion. Then it's over, and it's time to join the procession.

Outside, the number of flags have multiplied. People are everywhere holding them, an almost-continuous line, many ranks deep, from babies to the very old. They line the entire route of the procession. Surely some have come from other places. One person holds a sign saying, "Thank you, Ben."

Then the long, long line of cars reaches the green shade beneath ancient trees, on a nice piece of rolling ground. We park where they point. We get out and join the throng. A flag-draped shape emerges from the car, borne by strong young men with stiff-lipped serious faces. Words are said. Seven rifles fire three times each. The bugle. Then it's over, and you drive home.

Spc. Benjamin James Slaven was 22 years old.

MEMORIALS

IT BEGINS WITH A COMPANY FORMATION.

Platoons are separated by five paces. Crisp, clean uniforms and smart, fresh haircuts. Sombre faces and shrink-wrapped eyes that turn too quickly under scrutiny. Everyone tries to forget the post chapel behind them and the monument to a fallen brother that lies on a raised dais within. Second platoon is 12 short, missing a full squad. That 12 is inside, saying goodbye to a young man they've grown to love, someone who's been with them nearly every day for eight months.

Right face. By platoon, file from the right, column right. Clear weapons in the clearing barrel. Trudge into the chapel, second row on the right, take seats with weapon under chair.

There is hardly a whisper. On a raised platform sits a pair of boots, an M-16, barrel down, sights out, a Kevlar helmet resting atop the buttstock, a set of dogtags dangling from the charging handle. To either side of the weapon are two medals: the Iraq Campaign Medal and the Purple Heart. Resting below the boots is a framed photograph of a smiling young soldier. Once all seats have been taken, the company first sergeant releases everyone on the condition they arrive back at their places by 0830. Many soldiers jump at the chance for a cigarette or two, or 10. Sadness, frustration, impotent anger, and, though they'll never say it, relief: "It wasn't me." This is not dishonorable, but human – a natural reaction to an unnatural situation.

0900 hours. The chapel is packed. Soldiers from the battalion, soldiers from the brigade, majors, colonels, even a general, many who didn't even know the young man whose life is being commemorated here. There is a camera to the right, recording the ceremony for a family in mourning 7,000 miles away. A keyboardist plays "Hero" in a continuous loop. The National Anthem starts, and roughly 500 soldiers rise smartly, arms stiff at the sides, thumbs to pant seams, feet together at the heels and canted at a

45-degree angle. The song ends and is followed by the chaplain's invocation.

Next are remarks from the fallen soldier's friends. His squad leader reads his biography. His driver reads a personal statement. The company commander gives a short speech. The company first sergeant follows with a Scripture reading. The chaplain then reads his own personal statement. Through it all, most have kept their composure, but none are prepared for the final roll call.

The names of the soldier's squad leader, truck commander and driver are called by the first sergeant and answered.

"Specialist Slaven!" Silence. "Specialist Benjamin Slaven!" Silence. "Specialist Benjamin James Slaven!"

BANG! The crack of seven rifles fired in unison causes many to jump. Tears come to their eyes. They fire again, and again, and then the lone bugle plays its dirge.

Soldiers fall into line. They walk across the platform and salute the monument to Specialist Slaven. When it's my turn, I stride slowly, execute a right face, and bring my hand to my brow. I'm aware of the moisture in my eyes, which turn down as I execute a left face and leave the platform. I see for the first time how full the room really is. Many soldiers are standing along the back wall. It's all I can do not to run outside, into daylight, away from that monument that means my friend will never see his dream of becoming a drill sergeant, an underwater welder, a husband or a father. Run away from the fear that one day my own picture will be in front of that monument, that I'll never see my fiancée or my parents or my brothers and sisters again. Run away from the fear that I'll never become a teacher and raise a family. But I don't run. I walk as quickly as discipline allows to the outdoors, where my friends wait to share in my grief.

[ACTIVE DUTY]

E-MAILS FROM AFGHANISTAN:**'UNTIL I AM HOME AGAIN'**

Following is the first in a series of excerpts from e-mails sent home by Army Capt. Adam Bock, helicopter pilot, who is serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is the son of American Legion Past National Commander Thomas Bock.

To all

I have arrived in Afghanistan. What a beautiful place. The view off my front porch is breathtaking. Our airfield sits in a bowl of mountains. We are only at 5,000 feet, but the mountains surrounding us peak at over 13,000. I never thought I would see the Himalayas. Now I get the opportunity to fly in them. What a year I am going to have.

The Himalayas are the highest mountains in the world, with many peaks well over 18,000 feet. Our flight routes are very restricted, and we are funneled through canyons with vertical walls that rise well over 8,000 feet, straight up. This place is simply amazing.

However, the weather is extreme; we are constantly flying to locations well below zero degrees, sometimes into the negative teens. I truly feel sympathy for the soldiers on the ground. Their job is much more strenuous than it was in Iraq.

With such terrain it is no wonder this civilization is so isolated. Most of the people here live without power. Most of the cities and settlements don't even have running water or sewage. Could you imagine carrying your daily drinking water a mile up a hill from the river?

Life has been busy for the past 10 days, and the time is passing quickly. My job has been to set up the logistical foundation for a unit with more than 65 helicopters. Their missions will range from Apache missile attacks to deliberate Chinook assaults on local terrorists. It has been a very difficult task, and I am learning a lot. Afghanistan is definitely the unfunded and forgotten war. Unlike Iraq, there are very few logistical luxuries here. Most of the money is spent on necessary ammo and fuel for the aircraft. So I am not surrounded by pools and movie theaters, no indoor climbing wall, and I don't live in a nice heated trailer with a roommate.

The heating, in fact, is very poor. The temps get down to zero at night, and my hooch isn't much warmer.

I have been typing too long and must get to a meeting.

- Adam



[LAW]

A SENSE OF DECENCY

BY BRUCE LINDL

In response to an anti-gay group that has protested at military funerals around the country, different states have attempted to make such actions a crime. Members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., have waved signs like "soldier fag in hell," and "thank God for dead soldiers!" Fred Phelps, the church's leader, contends that U.S. soldiers are being killed in Iraq as vengeance from God for protecting a country that harbors gays. The church is comprised mainly of Phelps' children, grandchildren and in-laws. Some First Amendment proponents disagree with the anti-military signs but support the right to demonstrate.

"We have a right to express our views, even if most people think them repellent," says Jean Policinski of the First Amendment Center.

The Minnesota House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation requiring protesters targeting funerals to stay at least 1,000 feet away. Wisconsin also now has a law that limits the distance at which protesters can appear.

In Massachusetts, a protest helped bring a town together. The town of Marblehead was grieving for Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Piper, a 43-year old Green Beret who died after his vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Protesters targeted Massachusetts after it legalized same-sex marriages. The Westboro Baptist Church picketed on a corner near the Old North Church, founded in 1635. Shirley Phelps-Roper, a lawyer for the Westboro church, said the funeral demonstration was nothing personal against Piper, who was not gay. "We are protesting the sins of this nation; that doesn't exclude him," she said. However, the group's protests went unheard, because every time demon-



American Legion Rider and Patriot Guard member Jerry Bohlmann hoists a flag outside St. Mary's Cathedral before funeral services last August for Pfc. James Joseph Arellano, in Cheyenne, Wyo. Arellano, 19, was buried with military honors. He died from injuries caused by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

AP/The Wyoming Tribune Eagle

strators spoke out, the 14-man Boston Police Department bagpipe group broke into thunderous play. Some would say, as the American Civil Liberties Union in Minnesota has argued, funerals should not provide First Amendment exceptions. Others suggest that the First Amendment should be balanced against the privacy of a family.

Last Memorial Day, President Bush signed the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act, which bars protests within 300 feet of a national cemetery entrance and within 150 feet of an access road. Violators face up to \$100,000 in fines and up to a year in prison.

While I was on active duty as a judge advocate in the Air Force, a fellow friend and Air Force officer was killed overseas. His family requested that I be appointed as the escort. The casket was flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. I escorted the casket to Arlington National Cemetery, where it was carried by a horse-drawn caisson to the gravesite. The family and I walked behind.

In West Bend, Wis., on Dec. 29,

Capt. Kevin Kryst, a 27-year old helicopter pilot, was laid to rest after he was killed in a mortar attack west of Baghdad. More than 50 members of the Patriot Guard Riders stood silently holding U.S. flags outside the church. They attended at the request of Kryst's family to deter the Westboro church, which had announced its plans to demonstrate during services. Eight people holding signs demonstrated two blocks away during the visitation.

One can argue about the limits of the First Amendment, suggesting it does not limit rude behavior, nor, conversely, inappropriate behavior, such as funeral protests, lessen an individual's right to free speech. Even with a constitutional right to protest, however, it is difficult to argue that protesters have the right to threaten public safety, given the potential volatility of their acts. Additionally, decency demands such protests not be allowed to interfere with the grief of a family. A family's right to grieve on its own terms – their right of privacy – should also be absolute. Decency demands nothing less.



Bruce Lindl is a partner at the law firm of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. in Milwaukee, where he practices corporate and commercial law. Previously, he was a senior counsel at Rockwell Automation and general counsel at ABB, Inc.

blindl@whdlaw.com

[VERBATIM]

"I believe homosexual acts between two individuals are immoral and that we should not condone immoral acts."

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, explaining in a newspaper interview why the military should not allow gays to serve openly in the armed forces

"When members speak not of victory but of time limits, deadlines and other arbitrary measures, they are telling the enemy simply to watch the clock and wait us out."

Vice President Dick Cheney, urging Congress to approve military funding for Iraq

"When the IED actually exploded, I don't remember that. But I do remember at that moment I saw my body floating below me and ... a whiteness ... I just saw something."

ABC "World News Tonight" anchor Bob Woodruff, describing his memories of the roadside bomb attack in Iraq last year that nearly took his life

"We do not see America in a position to impose another crisis on its taxpayers inside America by starting another war in the region."

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, responding to Vice President Dick Cheney's warning that "all options" are on the table if Tehran continues to defy U.N. demands to halt uranium enrichment

"I couldn't describe the emotions that I've had over the last two or three days thinking about this. Everything from anger and outrage to reflection, and to some degree pride and glory."

The Rev. Al Sharpton, on learning that he is a descendant of a slave once owned by relatives of the late Sen. Strom Thurmond

[VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION]

Legion pledges staff, support in Walter Reed aftermath

The American Legion has responded with professional staff and plans to fully cooperate with a new bipartisan commission investigating DoD-to-VA medical transition issues. The moves come after the media exposed deplorable conditions in an outpatient residential facility in a former hotel under the administration of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

President Bush selected former Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas, a Republican, and former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, who served in the Clinton cabinet, to lead the comprehensive health-care review commission.

"The American Legion stands ready to provide this committee any assistance we can," Morin said. "Providing service to our wounded soldiers as they make the transition from military to veteran health care is something that we have been doing for 88 years."

As Walter Reed's Building 18 conditions dominated the media in late February and early March, Dole was quoted in a newspaper asking, "I wonder where all the service organizations were?"

In response, Morin sent a letter to Dole clarifying that The American Legion has been at the forefront of DoD-VA transition and a force behind veteran health-care improvement since the organization's inception in 1919. However, The American Legion has not had consistent access to DoD medical facilities through the years.

Morin signed a memorandum of understanding with Walter Reed during the March Washington Conference, establishing an American Legion transition office, with professional staff, to assist wounded U.S. servicemembers making the transition between DoD and VA. This is the first time The American Legion has had a physical presence at a DoD military treatment facility, where veterans service organizations have in the past only been granted limited access.

[VALUES]

Courthouse commandments

The American Legion recently filed an amicus brief with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals that supports a federal judge's decision to allow a Ten Commandments display on an Oklahoma county courthouse lawn. The ruling faces a legal challenge from the American Civil Liberties Union.

"Suppression of this type of religious symbolism could set a dangerous precedent that would endanger veterans memorials across America, many of which contain religious imagery," states the amicus brief. The U.S. Supreme Court has previously ruled that religious displays are not inherently unconstitutional and that each case must be considered individually.



Now you too can beat

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

NEW!

Erectile Dysfunction (ED) affects about 30 million men in the USA. The causes are varied and range from psychological reasons to health conditions. But as serious as it is, some men still compound the problem by not taking steps to deal with it. **The result – often a complete breakdown in their most intimate relationship.**

"My diagnosis of cancer came as a shock to myself and my wife – little did we know that it would also end our intimate experiences... that was until we found the Vacurect™ vacuum therapy system. So simple and easy to use... after several months of use I began to regain my normal function."

– Mobile, AL.

Vacurect™ was designed by a 47 year old professional engineer who was experiencing ED himself. With the assistance of urologists and sexologists, he decided to tackle the problems of bulkiness and awkward method of use inherent in traditional Vacuum Erection Device (VED) design. The breakthrough result is an extremely compact and easy to use solution... see for yourself!



"For the last five years, my husband and I had been using an earlier model vacuum system... it was awkward to include in our lovemaking and the rings were uncomfortable for my husband. Now the Vacurect™ has unbelievably enhanced our intimate moments together"

– Clifton, N.J.

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[BUSINESS]

Internet entrepreneur

Reservist runs business on laptop while deployed.

Army Reserve 1st Lt. Rich Rivaux of Galveston, Texas, climbed aboard a plane in September 2004 worried that he would lose INTERSEC Tactical, a military and police equipment business he started three months earlier. He wondered how he was going to run his company during a yearlong deployment in Honduras.

"I was at a loss," Rivaux recalls. "I spent a lot of time, energy and money to get my business off the ground. I couldn't bear to lose it. But I had no choice. You go when duty calls."



Rivaux is among a growing number of self-employed citizen soldiers who face the difficulty of holding their business together during long and extended tours of duty.

"INTERSEC Tactical was an Internet operation when I launched it,"

Rivaux says. "So I got online when I was in Honduras to see if there was some sort of technology I could use to keep my business alive. That's when I ran across Innoport. Their technology enabled me to grow my business 400 percent."

Rivaux ran his company from his Web site and an eBay store, contacting customers through Innoport. The company forwarded all telephone calls or generated e-mail voice mails if Rivaux was not available. Rivaux fielded the calls or e-mails and drop-shipped merchandise. He ran his business during off-duty hours, lunch and breaks.

"Customers never knew I was in Honduras," Rivaux says.

[OUTREACH]

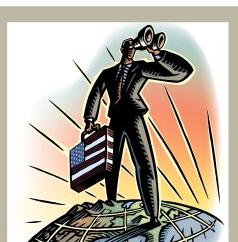
JOB FAIR CALENDAR

May 8	Military.com	San Diego
May 9	RecruitMilitary	Atlanta
May 15	RecruitMilitary	Raleigh, N.C.
May 16	Military.com	Jacksonville, Fla.
May 24	RecruitMilitary	Philadelphia
May 30	Military.com	Tampa, Fla.
May 31	RecruitMilitary	New Orleans

For updated information on job fairs and career events coming to your city, visit www.military.com and www.recruitmilitary.com.

[JOBS]

Writing cover letters that win job interviews

**THE JOB FRONT**

BY WENDY S. ENELOW

Today's cover letters are a vital part of the "package" each job seeker must present to a prospective employer. Well-constructed cover letters must simultaneously complement your resume, address an employer's job requirements, communicate your strengths, and sell you as

the ideal candidate. Here are four critical concepts to get you started:

**EFFECTIVE COVER LETTERS CONTAIN
10 KEY COMPONENTS**

(1) Your contact information; (2) date; (3) inside address; (4) reference line; (5) salutation; (6) opening paragraph; (7) content/main body; (8) closing paragraph/call to action; (9) closing; and (10) enclosure line.

COVER-LETTER WRITING IS SALES

Just as with resumes, cover letter writing is sales. Envision yourself as a unique commodity: just the right solution to a problem for employers who need the features and benefits you have to offer. When you write your letters, demonstrate how your qualifications relate to each firm's specific needs.

COVER-LETTER WRITING IS ALL ABOUT STRATEGY

Cover-letter strategy is about understanding who your audience is and what approach will be most appealing. The content of each letter will change based on what you know about each company – who they are, what they need, and how your skills will complement that particular organization.

TARGETED LETTERS WORK BEST

The majority of letters you write will be targeted toward a specific job opening with a particular company. Carefully examine each job posting to identify the specific requirements of the position; then, research the company's mission, values, culture and challenges. This will help you better understand the employer and how you can deliver value. In today's Internet-based world, finding that information is easy. Once you've identified the key requirements for the job, you can write bullet points, or short paragraphs, that showcase your relevant qualifications.

These are only four of the key strategies that professional resume-writers use to craft cover letters that open doors and generate job interviews.

Wendy S. Enelow is co-author of "Expert Resumes for Military-to-Civilian Transitions" and provides resume-writing workshops at veterans job fairs nationwide.

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- Opening Hood • Spare Tire Located Under Truck Bed

Coupe Features

- Opening Hood • Opening Doors
- Baked Enamel Finish • Opening Rumble Seat
- Dual Running Boards • Official Chevrolet Logos

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[AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS]

Legacy Run 2007

The second annual American Legion Legacy Run rumbles out of Indianapolis to the 89th National Convention in Reno, Nev., on Aug. 19-24. Last year's hugely successful inaugural run raised more than \$180,000 for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides college money for children of U.S. servicemembers killed on duty since 9/11.

This year, the goal has been raised to \$250,000. Hundreds of riders on bikes of all shapes, sizes and colors will roar across the Midwest, over the Great Plains, through the Rockies and into Nevada on a 2,100-mile journey.

Riders can join at any point along the Legacy Run and travel any distance they choose. Some will go the full distance.

To learn more, register to ride or make a donation directly to the American Legacy Scholarship fund, visit www.legion.org/legacyrun online.

[NATIONAL SECURITY]

Biosensors built from llama blood

An unusual protein found in the blood of llamas has enabled scientists to develop a quick, simple method for making antibodies that could be used in a new generation of biosensors that could help detect deliberate environmental contamination, such as bioterrorism.

The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory's Ellen R. Goldman and Andrew Hayhurst, of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, say that llamas are among certain animals, including camels and sharks, that produce heavy chain antibodies from which so-called single-domain antibodies, which do not need refrigeration, can be isolated by genetic engineering.

The researchers say they have successfully produced single-domain antibodies to a smallpox virus surrogate, cholera toxin, along with other biothreats.

[Q&A]

Record donor gives from the heart

Albert Fischer, a 36-year member of American Legion Post 1066 in Massapequa, N.Y., has donated blood for more than 55 years, enough to have saved nearly 1,000 lives.



Amy C. Elliott

Q: *What is your history of blood donation?*

A: I gave my very first pint in January 1951. Back then, you were only allowed to give five times a year. I'll admit it – I cheated a few times and snuck an extra pint here and there. After that I gave pretty regularly, but I wasn't out to set a record at that point. Now they've changed the restrictions and only require a wait of eight weeks. So every 56 days, I donate whole pints, not just platelets.

Q: *What is your current ranking in the blood-giving record book?*

A: As of April 4, I will have given 306 pints. There are eight pints in a gallon, so that's just over 38 gallons of blood. The Red Cross hasn't always kept records, and "The Guinness Book of World Records" is hemming and hawing,

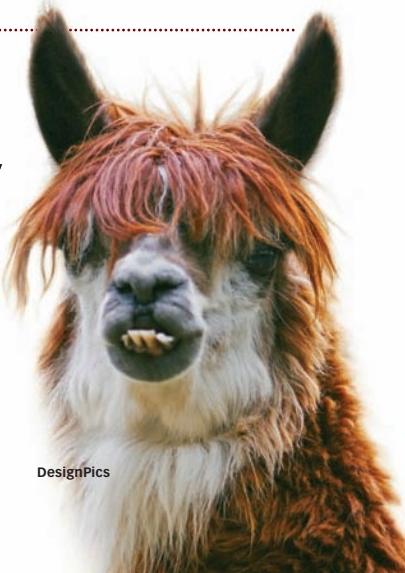
but right now I believe I'm second in the nation and fourth in the world.

Q: *What is your motivation?*

A: I consider this my charity. I don't have a lot of money to give, so this is how I help people. One pint can save three lives, I've given enough to save 918 people. It makes me feel good in my heart to know I've given people new life.

Q: *How do you encourage others?*

A: Most people will tell you the reason they don't give is a fear of needles. I ask them if they could get past the fear if it were their mother, their sister or their neighbor. It's just a little pinprick. It takes me just one hour from the time I give my medical history to the coffee and cookies. You can do that on your lunch break.



DesignPics

NOTICE OF U.S. MINT RELEASE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

The U.S. Mint® has announced the release of the second Presidential Golden Dollar for 2007. To insure equal nationwide coverage, you can receive an uncirculated John Adams Presidential Golden Dollar FREE from the private United States Commemorative Gallery.

These valued-condition coins have never entered the hands of the American public and have never circulated in pocket change. In fact, with this condition, the coins' luster produced by the U.S. Mint remains, making these treasures even more extraordinary and allowing them to stand out far above the rest.

It has been said that this new coin program will be much more popular than the Statehood Quarter Dollar Program™.

And since the current market price of Uncirculated State Quarters has dramatically increased in value up to 800%, we are strongly recommending that those Americans who want these Presidential Golden Dollars respond to this bulletin no later than next Tuesday.

You cannot find these dollars in your change. That is why this FREE distribution is being made to the

General Public.

"It is amazing how quickly everyone is getting excited about the new Presidential Dollars. Unlike the State Quarters, where you might only be interested in a few of your favorite states, everyone has interest in our American Presidents. It spans all State borders and all ages," said Michael J. Bradshaw, U.S. Director of the private United States Commemorative Gallery.

You do not have to pay for the FREE Uncirculated Dollar. With participation in this special release program you will receive the brilliant Uncirculated Adams Golden Dollar FREE in exchange for three Loose First Class Stamps to cover the Special Gallery Display Case and return shipment to you.

Release is now authorized: Simply return the Authorized Delivery Release form. All requests must be postmarked by next Tuesday or you will forfeit your FREE Adams Golden Dollar. To ensure equal distribution of the FREE Adams Golden Dollar in your area, only one FREE Dollar per household. Sorry, no exceptions will be granted. ■

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[LIVING WELL]

Like knives through eyes

All the different headache types have one thing in common: misery.

When to call a doctor

The National Headache Foundation says you should consult a health-care professional if your headache:

- Is sudden and severe
- Occurs with fever, stiff neck or uncontrollable vomiting
- Causes confusion or loss of consciousness
- Is persistent, when previously you've been headache-free
- Is accompanied by numbness, weakness or vision loss
- Begins after age 50
- Begins after head injury or other trauma
- Interferes with your ability to function normally at work or in social situations
- Requires medication more than two days per week

More information on headache causes and treatments is available online.

www.headaches.org

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

Almost everyone experiences an occasional headache. But for some, headaches are a severe, chronic and debilitating condition. Here's how one patient described her pain to a *New York Times* reporter: "It's like knives going through my eyes. It makes you want to pull every hair out of your head."

Major categories include:

■ *Migraine headaches.* Affecting about 13 percent of the population, these start as a dull ache and turn into constant throbbing. The pain may come with nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light and noise. Migraines can last for hours or days. They affect three times as many women as men.

■ *Cluster headaches.* Mainly targeting men, these are far less common than migraines but can be even more severe and intense. Attacks can occur up to three or four times a day over several weeks or months, thus the name "cluster." They then can disappear for months, or even years. The pain arrives with little warning and is usually on one side of the head or behind one eye. The nostril on the affected side may feel congested or runny.

■ *Tension headaches.* The most common type, these affect nearly eight in 10 Americans. Some people get them infrequently, while others suffer 15 or more days per month. Often described as a tight band around the head, the pain can be mild or moderate and spread to the back of the neck and the shoulders.

■ *Secondary headaches.* "Secondary" or "organic" headaches are symptoms of an underlying condition, such as high blood pressure or an infection, tumor or blood clot. Sinus headaches, for example, can

result from colds, allergies, infections or structural problems in the nasal cavity.

Easing the Pain. Regardless of the type of headache, most sufferers can find considerable relief from medication or other treatments. Management of migraines, in particular, has improved substantially in the past decade. Triptans, a relatively new class of drugs, are used to treat migraines when they occur. Other drugs, such as beta blockers, may be used preventively.

Depending on the type of headache, other treatments may include biofeedback, acupuncture, massage, relaxation techniques and dietary changes. In the case of migraines, any number of foods and beverages – ranging from alcohol and eggs to cheese and chocolate – may play a role in triggering attacks.

Research is ongoing to help doctors better understand how to treat headaches. One study by researchers with VA and the Medical College of Georgia found biofeedback effective for treating tension headaches in the elderly. Another study by the same group showed that compared with non-headache sufferers, patients who experienced tension headaches tend to hold more anger inside.

Joel Kupersmith, M.D., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.



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[LIFESTYLE]

Treasure or trash?

When it's time to sort through a lifetime of relics, it's often wise to seek professional appraisal.

When a parent dies or becomes seriously ill, the family often must dispose of a large quantity of goods collected over the years. The items might be antiques or collectibles, but how can anyone know what's valuable and whether it's best to sell something now or keep it as an investment?

The first rule of thumb, says Shawn Wallace, an estate auction specialist and owner of World of Treasures in Redmond, Ore., is not to throw anything out until you've had it checked by someone knowledgeable.

"Some of the ugliest-looking things can have the most value," Wallace says. "When I'm called in to sell off an estate, the first thing I do is go to the garbage can and pull out all the stuff that's been thrown out. Very often there are valuable antiques or collectibles in the trash bin." In two recent estates he handled, Wallace uncovered Oriental bamboo pieces from the 1800s worth about \$1,500 and an antique pistol that brought in \$1,800.

"Items can be stuck in the back of cupboards or other out-of-the-way places," Wallace says. "Jewelry is especially easy to hide."

Don't overlook newer collectibles, says Stuart Solomon, owner of Stuart F. Solomon Antiques in Northampton, Mass.

"Something we might consider common from 30 years ago may have value today," he says. "Materials from the 1950s, '60s and '70s appeal to an entirely new generation of collectors. You can't assume that because an item is of newer vintage it has no value."

Robert Huillier, an appraiser for Gaige and Co., an antique sales and auction firm in Scottsdale, Ariz., says it's common for people to toss valuable items before they are identified. "We once were engaged by the family of a widow who lived in a house with a lot of cats," Huillier says. "The family was embarrassed by the state of the house, so they



put a drop box in the driveway and emptied material into it for a week. When we visited the place, my wife pulled two or three items from the drop box. Two hours later, she and a worker had pulled out \$40,000 worth of items."

Huillier stresses that it's often a good idea to hire an appraiser.

"The appraiser will walk through the estate before the sale and point out the more significant items," he says. "It could be something like an old poster on the wall that might have been tossed out."

"There's no magic formula to finding the right person to help you," says Dwight Schannep, owner of American Antique Mall in Tucson, Ariz., and a buyer and seller of estates. "Get a trusted family friend, an appraiser or antique dealer to look at the material."

Schannep recommends checking how long a person or company has been in business and contacting the local Better Business Bureau about complaints.

"If you're having trouble finding an appraiser, call a local trust company or your bank to see who it uses," Huillier says.

Even if family members want to keep some items as mementos, it's important to first get them appraised for value before they're distributed, he adds.

"The tax situation is another issue to be considered," Huillier says. "It's best to consult with a probate attorney in that regard."

Most experts recommend disposing of collection items rather than holding them as investments. "It's tough to predict how prices will fluctuate, so if the market is good when you have the material to sell, you should do so," Solomon says. "If you're passionate or sentimental about an item, keep it because it's money in the bank. But get the best value you can for the rest of the collection."

- Alan M. Petrillo

“My Husband’s SECRET ... for Amazing INTIMACY!”

I just had to tell your readers about a recent experience I shared with my husband. First, let me just say he is a wonderful man. **But, after being married for all these years, it seemed he was having confidence issues lately in AND out of bed.** It was having a real negative effect on his virility and let's face it, it's not like we're newlyweds anymore.

Thankfully, we didn't have to deal with an embarrassing doctor's appointment or prescription, because everything changed a few days ago. I came home from work and something was different. He seemed more confident and excited than he'd been lately. He said he had found something that could help improve our recent bedroom issues, but it was a surprise. He had read about it online and we decided to give it a try. Well all I can say is I definitely felt sensations I'd never felt before ... in places I forgot existed. Best of all, there was clearly a difference in his erection quality and confidence. **I can honestly say it was the most incredible experience I've ever had in my entire life.**

When I asked him to reveal his secret discovery – he wouldn't. So I did some snooping. It didn't take me long to figure it out. In his top drawer was a tube of **Maxoderm CONNECTION**. After reading the fine print and finding the website, I went online to www.maxodermct.com to discover more about this magic in a tube.

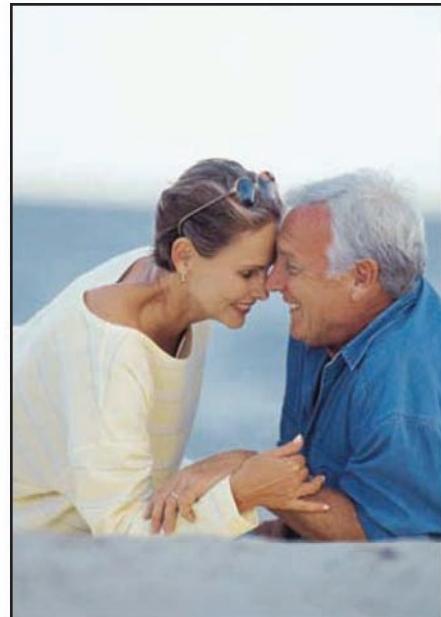
Maxoderm CONNECTION (of which I'm having my husband buy a lifetime supply) is a lotion that is applied topically to the most “intimate areas”. **An all natural mix of herbs, it helps improve stimulation directly at the source – that's when amazing things start to happen. Now he experiences improved erection quality and firmness and I experience more pleasure and stimulation than ever before!** We aren't into taking pills of any kind – not even aspirin – so I was relieved to find he was using something topical without any potential systemic side effects you may experience with prescriptions. Unless you want to think of incredible intimacy as a side effect, because with **Maxoderm CONNECTION**, you just may experience incredible intimacy time and time again!

So ... please print this letter. Anyone who wants to experience amazing intimacy has to try **Maxoderm CONNECTION**. They need to tell their husbands about this product. Or just “accidentally” leave a tube lying around for them to “accidentally” find. I really want to thank the makers who developed **Maxoderm CONNECTION** for making a product that's had such an impact on our intimate relationship. It's really made a difference.

T.J.

T.J.
Phoenix, AZ

*P.S., Let your readers know I'm pretty sure they can still get a **FREE MONTH SUPPLY** of **Maxoderm CONNECTION** with their order by calling **1-800-797-5617** or by visiting their website at www.maxodermct.com, and **FOR A LIMITED TIME**, you can still get **\$200 worth of FREE GIFTS** with your order that are yours to keep – no questions asked. Oh and even better, their product is backed by a **90 Day Full Money Back Guarantee**.



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incredible
experience
I've ever had in
my entire life.”**



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[ADVOCACY]

Legion helps fund 'people's report' on VA

Last fall, The American Legion's National Executive Committee pledged through Resolution 6 to support the Commission on the Future for America's Veterans. Four months later, at the Washington Conference, the organization made good on its pledge by presenting Harry Walters, managing commissioner and a former VA administrator, a check for \$100,000 to help the commission do its work.

"We are very grateful for The American Legion's contribution," Walters said. "We know it comes from your heart. And we also know it comes with expectations."

The Commission on the Future for America's Veterans is a non-government independent body tasked with charting a clear course to a new era of veterans programs and services. The commission intends to release a thorough report in 2008, before the general election.

www.future4vets.org

[PUBLIC RELATIONS]

Commander salutes 'Extreme Makeover'

American Legion National Commander Paul A. Morin presented the minds behind ABC's hit television series "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" the National Commander's Public Relations Award during the Washington Conference in March. "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" has built custom homes specifically tailored to meet the needs of U.S. servicemembers injured in the global war on terrorism.



Designer Tanya McQueen of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" accepts the National Commander's Public Relations Award. *James V. Carroll*

City policemen buried in the rubble during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"When Jason Thomas fell to his knees and saw his home and was leading his family up to the door, there were Marines lining the sidewalk," McQueen said. "Here he is, standing before this beautiful home that he could have never dreamed of, never could have afforded, and what amazed him the most was that his fellow Marines came out and spent a week with us and made this dream possible."

The "Extreme Makeover" team also built and furnished a home for the family of Army Pfc. Lori Piestewa, a soldier killed during the opening days of the Iraq war. The team also arranged the construction of a center for Native American veterans in Piestewa's hometown of Tuba City, Ariz.

"It is my hope and my prayer that what we're able to do has inspired you to go back to your own neighborhoods and make a difference," Ricketts said. "Sometimes it's not about knocking down a house. It's about a handicap ramp or a leaky roof. Go back to your communities and organize your friends and your neighbors to make a difference."

[IMMIGRATION]

Five lessons in illegal immigration

1 Four of the 19 hijackers involved in the 9/11 terrorist attacks were stopped for traffic violations by local law enforcers prior to their actions. All four were in the United States illegally, but a lack of shared information between local and federal officials allowed them to escape jail and commit mass murder.

2 Mexico's No. 1 source of foreign capital, some \$24 billion a year, is money sent home from its citizens

living in the United States – many illegally. That surpasses the country's oil and tourism revenue.

3 The U.S. taxpayer cost of the estimated 5 million illegal immigrants within U.S. borders who are high-school dropouts is approximately \$500 billion over the course of their lifetimes.

4 The average wage for a meat packer was between \$15 and \$20 per hour prior to the influx of illegal

immigrants into the United States. Today it's less than \$10 per hour.

5 U.S. Border Patrol officers apprehended 3,722 people in 2005 who originated from either terrorist states or countries where al-Qaeda is active.

From an American Legion illegal immigration forum conducted in early March in Washington. The Americanism Commission is now in the midst of distilling more than 30 resolutions opposing illegal immigration into a policy members can use in public forums and debates.



Steve Gray holds his son's dog tags near Sgt. Jamie Gray's gravesite on the family farm in Calais, Vt. **Norwich University/Bill Estill**

'The Vermont Fallen'

The stories of 25 U.S. service-members from Vermont who died in Iraq and Afghanistan are told through interviews with family members in a documentary project recently completed by digital media technology students at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt.

"The Vermont Fallen" is the latest in an anthology of similar student-produced documentaries that have earned the Norwich University communications program national acclaim. In 1999, the school won a College Emmy for a documentary on Vietnam War veterans.

Norwich was the first private military college in the country and the birthplace of ROTC. That heritage is alive and well. Last year, the university commissioned more Army second lieutenants than any other school aside from West Point.

Cadet Craig McGrath of Staten Island, N.Y., summed up the feelings of those who produced "The Vermont Fallen." "A lot of people at this school either know someone in Iraq or could be going there themselves soon," he said. "It's personal for us."

Professor and project coordinator Bill Estill described the impact the project has had on the soldiers' families. "I think one of the greatest accomplishments was bringing those families together," he said. "They now routinely gather to celebrate the lives of their loved ones."

—David Santos

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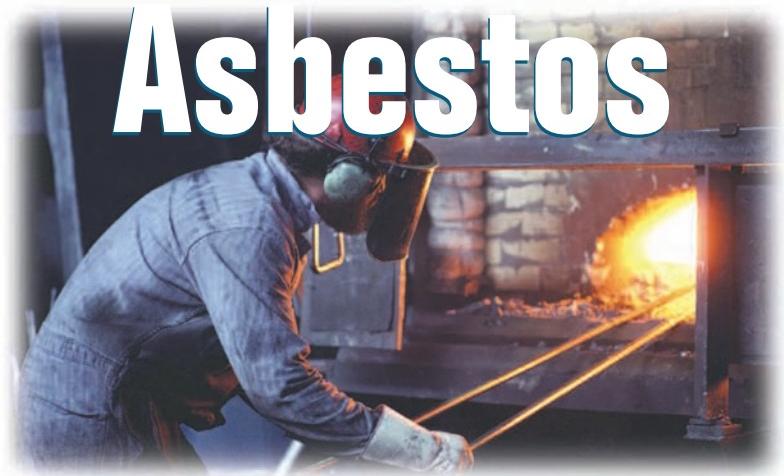
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[LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

POST 6, PRESCOTT, ARIZ. Acting on a routine request in May 2006, the post honor guard planned memorial services and a final tribute to a World War II veteran and his family. No one in the guard was prepared for a brush with history when it was revealed that the family was related to John McCrae, who wrote the famous poem and Memorial Day standard "In Flanders Fields."

In May 1915, Canadian Medical Officer McCrae attended feverishly to wounded soldiers near Ypres, Belgium. On a World War I battlefield of suffering, death and exhaustion, McCrae received news of the death of a close friend. Devastated, he nonetheless assisted in the burial of his friend in Flanders Fields.

What followed stunned the world, causing it to stop and embrace a few lines of poetry McCrae wrote to honor not only his friend, but all who gave their lives in battle. "In Flanders Fields" gave birth to the poppy as the universal symbol of veterans and a groundswell of remembrance for those who made the supreme sacrifice. McCrae's poem is still read at memorial services across the nation.

On Friday, May 19, 2006, when the Post 6 Honor Guard rendered full military honors to the World War II veteran who was related to McCrae, members of the guard each paid tribute with a traditional salute and placed a poppy near the veteran's remains. The ceremony, though brief, will long be remembered by those who participated.

— Robert D. Charlesworth, Prescott, Ariz.



Getty Images

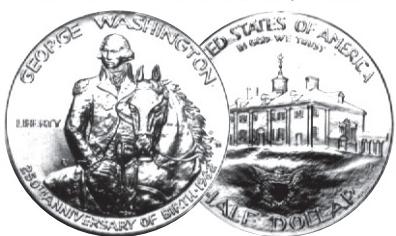
[MILITARY AFFAIRS]**Class of carriers named for Ford**

The next class of U.S. aircraft carriers will be known as the Gerald R. Ford class. Aptly, the *USS Gerald R. Ford* will be the first carrier christened among them.

"If the purpose of naming an aircraft carrier is to convey the confident spirit of our military, and the good and just causes that America serves in the world, then we have certainly accomplished that purpose here today," Vice President Dick Cheney said. "The *Gerald R. Ford* and sister ships in the new class of nuclear-powered carriers will help ensure the sea power of the United States for the next half century."

President Ford rose to the rank of lieutenant commander during World War II, serving aboard the carrier *USS Monterey*. The *Ford* is expected to join the fleet in the next eight years.

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[AMERICAN LEGION RACING]**Give the 76 some gas**

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MotorSports and the No. 76 American Legion Freedom Car. "One day you are on top of the world and the next, well, you know. But every lap we practice or every race lap we complete is a lap that will help us down the road in terms of experience and knowledge."

Racing is also an expensive sport, and Legionnaires can help keep No. 76 on the track by purchasing merchandise online at www.legionracing.org or by becoming an honorary sponsor by calling (704) 658-9988. All honorary sponsors will receive certificates suitable for framing.

**[OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM]****Enforcing the law**

Here in the United States, the controversial plan to secure Baghdad is known simply as "the troop surge." In Iraq, its official name is "Fardh Al-Qanoon," which means "enforcing the law." According to the Pentagon, the code name was agreed upon by the Iraqi government, with the support of coalition leaders, and reflects the Iraqi-led nature of the operation.

Under the plan, Iraqi army and police forces, along with coalition forces, are based in joint security stations throughout Baghdad in order to be closer to the Iraqi people.

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GI FILM FESTIVAL



Corbis

[MEDIA]

Film festival honors those who fought

Washington is the host city Memorial Day weekend for the first annual GI Film Festival. The event will present classics and premieres from international and domestic filmmakers celebrating the heroic stories of the U.S. Armed Forces. The festival runs May 26 to 28 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The American Legion will staff a booth at the event. More information is available online.

www.gifilmfestival.com

WHAT IS THE BEST WAR MOVIE?

Vote for the film that best exemplifies the spirit of U.S. fighting men and women. The movie can be from any war era and should illustrate the honorable nature of military service. Votes will be accepted until May 7. The winner will be announced at the GI Film Festival in Washington on Memorial Day weekend.

To vote, send the title of your pick for "Best War Movie Ever," along with a brief description why it tops the list, to:

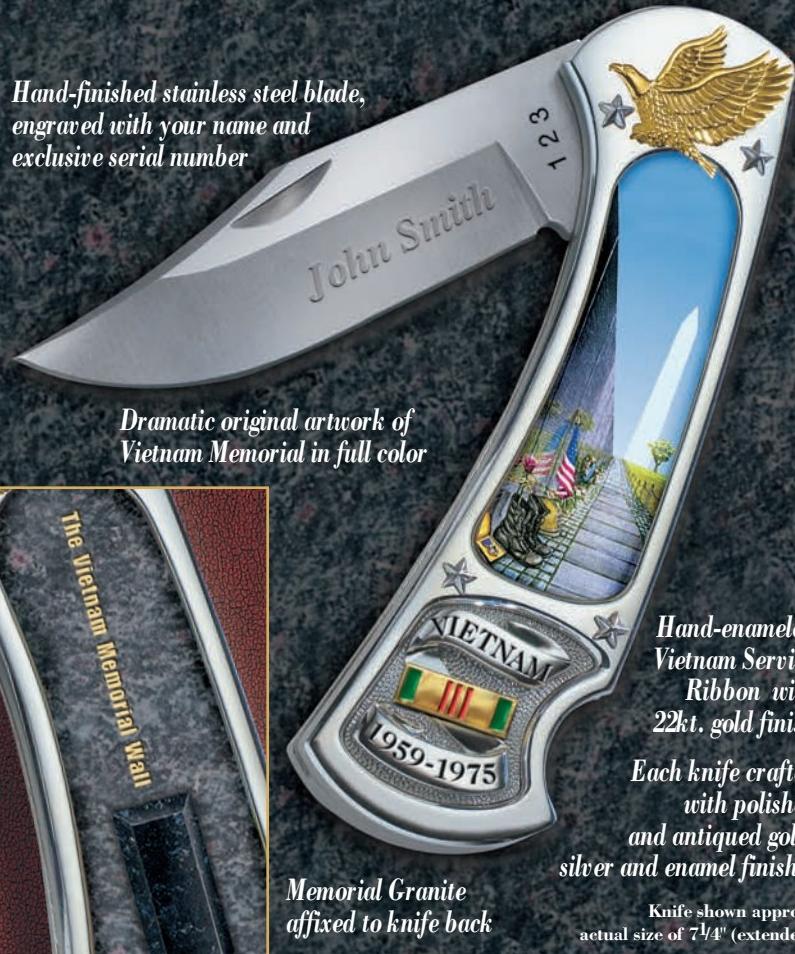
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How to Submit a Reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name,

telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

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87th Inf Div (WWII), Carlisle, PA, 10/8-14, Ken Macdonald, (440) 835-8571, kwm1925@yahoo.com; **99th Bomb Grp (WWII)**, Savannah, GA, 10/4-8, David Hill, dohill@att.net; **100th Bomb Grp (H)**, Nashville, TN, 9/6-9, Don Bradley, 1310 Hansen Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005, donduckdk@aol.com; **310th Bomb Wing KC-97 Maint Personnel (Schilling AFB)**, Salina, KS, 10/5-7, Charles Smith, (864) 578-7129, csmith19@charter.net; **456th Bomb Grp (Heavy), 15th AF**, Boise, ID, 7/18-22, Ed Moore, (800) 424-7515, hoobroel@ruraltel.net; **461st Bomb Wing B 52/KC 135 (Amarillo AFB, TX)**, Branson, MO, 9/27-30, Bill Davies, (501) 225-2400, wjdavies3@comcast.net; **1503rd Supply Sqdn (Hanneda, Japan, All Years)**, San Antonio, 10/24-28, Ed Bimler, (757) 930-1210, ebimler@cox.net

1962nd AACs Sqdn (Yontan, Okinawa, 1949-1951), Branson, MO, 9/19-22, Bud Zacharias, (816) 254-7735, budz@data-source.com; **3454th Tng Sqdn (Warren AFB, 1947-1956)**, Branson, MO, 10/25-28, Bill Sills, (405) 341-5839, bsills1@cox.net; **4128th Strat Wing (Amarillo AFB, TX)**, Branson, MO, 9/27-30, Bill Davies, (501) 225-2400, wjdavies3@comcast.net; **6927th RSM (Onna Point, Okinawa)**, New Orleans, 11/7-11, Jerry Stein, (561) 330-7471, flierry@bellsouth.net; **Flight Class 53 Foxtrot**, Branson, MO, 9/27-10/1, Frits Forrer, (850) 916-7566, fforrer@bellsouth.net; **Freeman Air Field Cadets (1943-1944)**, Seymour, IN, 9/14-16, Ted Jordan, (812) 523-5895, seycomdev@

seymourcity.com; **Pleiku AB, Vietnam (1962-1972)**, Branson, MO, 9/19-23, Harry Beam, (724) 745-9129, trpleiku@comcast.net; **RAVEN Forward Air Cont (Laos)**, San Antonio, 10/11-14, Ed Gunter, (830) 560-2522, edgunter@aol.com; **Sec Serv 1st Radio Sqdn Mobile**, Omaha, NE, 9/6-9, Phil Perry, (717) 545-0974, pandhperry@aol.com; **Strat Air Cmd Abn Cmd Cont Assn**, Dayton, OH, 10/15-19, Wilton Curtis, (804) 740-2290, wcurtis135@aol.com

ARMY

1st & 86th Ord Co (WWII & Korea), Dayton, OH, 9/26-28, George Kvet, (330) 854-9754; **1st Bn 8th Cav 1st Air Cav Div "Jumping Mustangs" (Vietnam)**, Albuquerque, NM, 7/11-14, J.J. Knafel, (260) 244-3864, jjknafel@myvine.com; **1st Bn 33rd Armd 3rd Armd Div (All Eras)**, Anderson, IN, 6/8-10, Jack Grant, (765) 643-8226, jjgrant@webtv.net; **1st Cav Div (Airmobile), 12th Cav Rgt (Vietnam, 1965-1972)**, Branson, MO, 9/6-9, Bill Tallerdy, (307) 221-0237, skydog82007@yahoo.com; **2nd Armd Div**, Columbus, GA, 9/12-16, Lewis Bogart, (713) 774-6837; **2nd Bn 34th Armd Assn**, San Antonio, 5/31-6/3, John Esquivel, (210) 533-1641, jesquivel3@satx.rr.com; **2nd Eng Spec Bde Amphib**, Hershey, PA, 9/9-12, Paul Lieberman, (561) 482-9862, seahorse2esb@aol.com; **3rd Inf Div**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/12-16, Dick Gallmeyer, (800) 523-4715, msg1gal@aol.com

5th Army, Italian Campaign (1943-1945), Italy Tour, NY, 10/14, Sy Canton, (561) 865-8495; **7th Inf Rgt "Ozark Area Cottonbalers"**, Shawnee, OK, 6/8-10, M. Throne, (660) 643-7849; **9th Inf Div & Attached Units (WWII)**, Grand Rapids, MI, 8/17-19, William Robey, (866) 229-2377, billrobey@aol.com; **15th Constabulary Sqdn**, Arlington, TX, 9/13-15, Horace J. Saldi, (301) 384-1168, saldidog@comcast.net; **15th Inf 5th RCT Outpost "Harry" Survivors (Korea)**, Fort Benning, GA, 6/15-17, E. Douglas Jones, (360) 466-1945, karkelko@wavecable.com; **17th Armd Eng 2nd Armd Div**, Columbus, GA, 9/12-16, John A. Shields, (724) 287-4301; **20th Armd Div**, Tucson, AZ, 9/27-29, Fred C. Stueve, (785) 456-7939, k0tcs@wamego.net; **21st AAA Automatic Wpns Bn (Self-Propelled) (Korea, 1951-1953)**, El Paso, TX, 9/12-14, Lester F. Kenfield, (717) 939-4621, stogie3e@peoplepc.com; **24th Inf Div (All Eras)**, Columbia, SC, 9/19-22, Wes Morrison, (831)

883-2156, wesm8@aol.com; **28th Inf Div**, Annville, PA, 9/5-8, Walter Chmiola, (717) 787-9385; **29th Inf Div Assn**, Boston, 8/15-19, Donald McCarthy, (401) 738-4558, donnmcCarthy1@verizon.net; **33rd Inf Div**, Dayton, OH, 9/13-15, Clare V. Chamberkin, (269) 344-3483, champie123@yahoo.com; **35th/538th Landclearing Co (Vietnam)**, Ledbetter, KY, 7/27-29, Larry Dohe, (785) 526-7783, dohefarm@wtciweb.com; **38th Sig Bn (Germany, WWII)**, Eatontown, NJ, 9/27-30, Bill Foiles, (803) 776-1114; **40th Inf Div 160th Rgt A Co (Japan & Korea, 1950-1954)**, Rapid City, SD, 9/10-12, Roger Lueckenhoff, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com; **42nd Inf "Rainbow" Div**, Virginia Beach, VA, 7/10-15, Pete Pettus, (573) 431-6184, jrpaizir@juno.com; **47th & 3rd Inf Div, 135th, 136th & 164th Rgts (Fort Rocker, AL & Fort Benning, GA, 1953-1955)**, Newport, TN, 10/22-27, Frank Wentzky, (864) 225-2139

62nd Armd FA Bn, Fort Bliss, TX, 9/13-15, Wilda Dixon, (806) 469-5321, wdxion@caprock-spur.com; **77th Ord Depot Co**, San Antonio, 10/7-9, Lowell Medin, (847) 359-4194, 121hemset@msn.com; **82nd Abn Div Assn**, Harrisburg, PA, 8/13-19, Lou Stewart, (302) 539-0484, nlsceanview@aol.com; **82nd Abn Div Assn**, Harrisburg, PA, 8/15-18, Dave Foy, (717) 766-5035, foy504@comcast.net; **94th Inf Div Assn**, Cincinnati, 5/22-27, Harry Helms Jr., (610) 363-7826; **99th CS Bn 9th Inf Div**, Phoenix, MD, 9/20-22, Dean Ayres, (410) 527-1204, deanayres@comcast.net; **101st Abn Div**, Omaha, NE, 8/8-11, Terry R. Zahn, (402) 305-7669, trandyzahn@cox.net; **101st Abn "Pathfinders"**, Fort Campbell, KY, 8/16-18, Patrick Dougherty, (410) 956-9154, the1dogman@comcast.net; **148th Inf Rgt 37th Div**, Port Clinton, OH, 8/24-25, Bruce Eberly, (937) 773-8625, mabeberly@aol.com; **158th Rgt Cbt Team (Philippines)**, Nashville, TN, 5/21-24, Jerry Schmidt, (414) 258-8141

180th Rgt Med Co, 45th Inf Div (1950-1953), Boston, 5/18-20, Patrick Sbarra, (609) 884-6652, j.sbarra@comcast.net; **187th Rakkasan**, St. Louis, 8/15-20, Aronon W. Cool, (330) 848-3136, arononcool187@earthlink.net; **313th Inf Rgt 79th Div (WWII)**, Pittsburgh, 8/15-18, Bob Watrol, (419) 666-9041, blmw7@aol.com; **507th Eng Heavy Shop Co (Hanau, Germany)**, Jasper, IN, 9/23-26, John Chezem, (309) 343-1764; **606th Ord Co (Ammo)**, Minden, NE, 6/23-24, John

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Carlson, (308) 832-2249, jc@rcom-ne.com; **709th Maint Bn 9th Inf Div**, Phoenix, MD, 9/20-22, Dean Ayres, (410) 527-1204, deanayres@comcast.net; **759th Railway Operating Bn (WWII)**, Oberlin, OH, 9/6-9, Dan Nepi, (856) 809-7398; **Amphib Attack Boats LCVP-LCM (Fort Pierce, FL, WWII)**, Ed Brisbois, (508) 943-5173; **ASA Southeast Asia Vets (All Units)**, Eugene, OR, 6/21-24, Harlan Olson, (303) 776-2314, harlan.olson@comcast.net; **B Co 503rd MP Bn (WWII)**, Mystic, CT, 9/16-19, Peter Joseph, (207) 872-2225; **Med Cmd Japan Assn, Japanese Nat'l Personnel Med, Support Units & Patients (Okinawa, 1945-2007)**, Baltimore, 10/10-14, Charles W.S. Jezycki, (707) 257-6818, charleswsj@msn.com; **Tank Dest (WWII)**, Gettysburg, PA, 6/7-9, Warren L. Beach, (215) 675-9410

JOINT

All Vets, DMZ to Delta Dance, Arlington, VA, 11/10, Len Ignatowski, (703) 255-0353, grunet69@gmail.com; **Toul Army Depot, France (1952-1967)**, Branson, MO, 10/15-18, Tom Fortney, bigtomfort@msn.com; **Vietnam Explosive Ord Disposal (EOD) Vets**, St. Louis, 8/9-12, Joe Jimenez, (206) 246-6636, joejimenez@comcast.net

MARINES

7th Comm Bn 1st Mar Div (Vietnam), San Diego, 6/20-23, Mike Fink, (252) 223-4064, mffink@ec.rr.com; **Alpha 1-12, 3rd Mar Div & Supporting Units (1965-1969)**, Las Vegas, 11/8-11, Donald Munn, (877) 644-1550; **Mike Btry 4th Bn 12th Mar & 3rd 155 Howitzer Btry 3rd Mar Div FMF**,

Tunica, MS, 9/24-26, Paul Christensen, (641) 444-4431; **Nav Disciplinary Cmd, Mar Prison Guards**, Portsmouth, NH, 9/14-16, Rocco Valvano, (570) 323-2330, mjthetypist@aol.com; **Raider Assn**, San Diego, 9/5-9, Bruce Burlingham, (708) 418-1026, bburlingham@sbcglobal.net; **Recruiters Assn**, Quantico, VA, 6/21-23, Jim Simmons, (417) 549-6391, jimandsally@sofnet.com; **Sangley Point Mar (All Years)**, Wheeling, WV, Sept, Ray Elliott, (217) 384-5820, tales@insightbb.com; **Tankers Assn**, York, PA, 9/30-10/5, G.D. Rose, (619) 579-7848, gdroseusmc@ yahoo.com

NAVY

79th Seabees (Alaska & South Pacific, WWII), Lancaster, PA, 10/7-11, Fred H. Hummel, (717) 733-1865, lenore@deazzd.com; **Aeolus ARC 3**, San Diego, 10/23-26, Mike Jarvis, (586) 751-4670, mjarvis@ussaeolus.com; **Albert T. Harris DE 447**, Branson, MO, 10/7-11, Charles Cook, (918) 749-8434, ccook13@aol.com; **Alderamin AK 116**, Norfolk, VA, 9/28-30, Lewis F. McIntyre, (301) 274-0975; **Anne Arundel**, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 10/18-20, Ed Novak, (954) 786-2237, ennovak@bellsouth.net; **Anderson DD 411**, St. Louis, 9/7-9, Melvin Wieger, (636) 916-1955, rumelco@aol.com; **Antietam CV/CVA/CVS 36/CG 54**, Hershey, PA, 9/12-16, Bill Heibert, (703) 768-6419, william.heibert@att.net; **Anzio**, Branson, MO, 9/5-10, Cecil C. Noennich, (760) 375-9567, anzio57cn@yahoo.com; **Askari ARL 30**, Indianapolis, 8/30-9/2, Lee Daley, (407) 275-0314, leetheebaker@gmail.com; **Avn Midshipmen, Flying**

Midshipmen Assn (1946-1950), Lexington Park, MD, 6/13-16, Dave Seeman, (301) 475-2242, seeman@ameritel.net; **Bairoko CVE 115**, Hutchinson, KS, 10/3-6, Martin McCoy, (620) 665-7457; **Begor APD 127**, San Diego, 10/24-27, Paul Kelly, (619) 749-5213, yncmush@aol.com; **Belknap DLG/CG 26**, Norfolk, VA, 10/18-20, Chuck Taylor, (281) 988-7036, ctaylor77083@yahoo.com; **Bristol DD 857**, Newport, RI, 10/2-5, Walter Marczak, (931) 648-9843, wmarczak@charter.net; **Bumper SS 333**, Eagan, MI, 9/27-30, Edward W. Stone, (315) 469-3825; **Cacapon AO 52**, Branson, MO, 9/19-23, Harold E. Byrd, (951) 765-0500, byrdhouse140@verizon.net; **CASU-14/ACORN-7 (WWII)**, Springfield, MO, 9/16-19, E.H. Henderson, (417) 883-4280; **Charles J. Badger DD 657**, Virginia Beach, VA, 9/11-13, Don Guillo, (631) 269-9001, dg77369@aol.com; **Charr SS 328**, Galveston, TX, 10/25-29, Lin Marvil, (850) 937-0917, linmarvil@panhandle.rr.com

Chilton APA 38, Orlando, FL, 11/8-11, William Shields, (215) 330-1802, jdubois42@msn.com; **Colonial LSD 18**, Tucson, AZ, 9/19-22, Loren Kerby, (816) 858-3158; **Columbus CA 74/CG 12/SSN 762**, Ontario, CA, 9/26-29, Allen B. Hope, (260) 492-9771, hope4391@comcast.net; **Coral Sea CVE 57**, Branson, MO, 9/5-10, Cecil C. Noennich, (760) 375-9567, anzio57cn@yahoo.com; **Corregidor CVE 58**, Chicago, 9/1-5, Joe Bennett, (716) 474-1670, jjben64@hotmail.com; **Cowpens CG 63/CLV 25 & Air Grps**, Spartanburg, SC, 6/12-17, Carswell Wynne, (478) 923-8211; **Crux AK 115 (WWII)**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 11/4-7, Wilton H. Price, (919) 365-5926; **Custer APA 40 (WWII)**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/12-16, Alan Barr, (717) 545-3274, bell222333@aol.com; **Deuel APA 160**, San Antonio, 8/20-23, Dick Oliver, (508) 222-6195, rroliver@naisp.net

Duxbury Bay AVP 38, Erie, PA, 9/18-19, Ray Kuehner, (609) 965-2085, conray429@verizon.net; **Eldorado AGC 11**, Des Moines, IA, 9/4-7, Oden E. Richardson, (515) 279-2877, bdutch43@msn.com; **English DD 696**, Branson, MO, 8/23-26, Bill Sammon, (256) 357-0220, billndee@acs-isp.com; **Enterprise CV 6**, San Antonio, 9/19-23, Bill Hay, (815) 732-2069; **Everett F. Larson DD/DDR 830**, Dayton, OH, 9/12-16, Tom Nordquist, (937) 477-4613, tnordqu670@aol.com; **Fleet Tanker Assn**, Branson, MO, 5/13-17, Mel Woodward, (714) 985-0778, w71726@aol.com; **Flint CL 97 (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 9/24-27, George Stai, (320) 269-8403; **Floyd B. Parks DD 884**, San Diego, 9/17-23, James Robbins, (530) 283-2165, sbirdsong@roadrunner.com; **Garrard APA 84**, Nashville, TN, 9/20-23, Lavern Wimer, (402) 765-7206, wlwimer@windstream.net

Goodhue APA 107, Austin, TX, 9/12-14, Anthony Nunes, (512) 310-2579, osarr@aol.com; **Grant County LST 1174**, Charleston, SC, 10/4-6, William Richardson, (252) 527-3523, wrichardson4@suddenlink.net; **Guam LPH 9**, Atlantic City, NJ, 7/30-8/3, Frank Walker, (816) 238-4894, sugamums2@aol.com; **Helena CL 50/CA 75/SSN 725**, Las Vegas, 8/27-30, Bill Bunker, (626) 446-7361; **Henley DD 762**, Covington, KY, 8/17-20, Richard L. LeBlanc, (760) 369-0453, jadikljt@webtv.net; **Hoggatt Bay CVE 75, VC-14, VC-88, VC-99 & CCD-23**, New Orleans, 9/27-30, Ginny Canady, (951) 787-8666,

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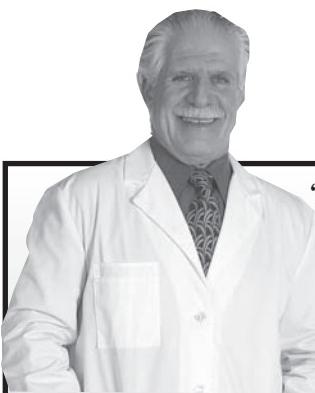
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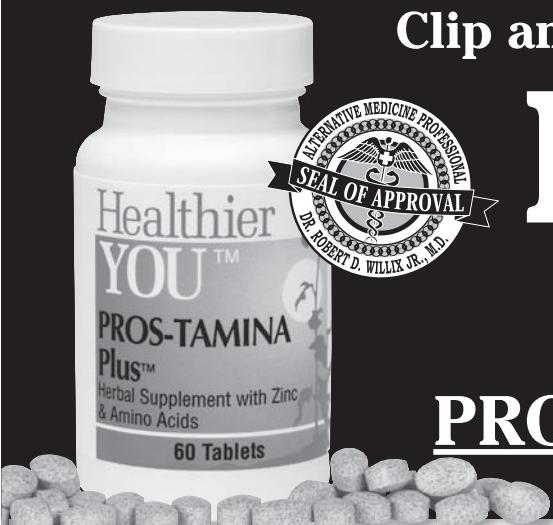
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Massey DD 778, Cruise, Miami, 11/4-11, Tom Potoskie, (570) 636-1507, twpotoskie@nni.com; **McCoy Reynolds DE 440**, Seattle, 10/4-7, Ray Heller, (360) 495-0091, corpocron@hotmail.com; **Mississippi EAG 128**, Charleston, NC, Nov, Jake Jacobs, (805) 384-9153, eag128reunion@yahoo.com; **Navarro APA 215**, Annapolis, MD, 10/1-5, Nancy Wheeler, ussnavarro2007@hotmail.com; **New Mexico BB 40**, St. Louis, 9/20-23, Vernon G. Dascher, (636) 949-9413; **NMCB-3 (All Eras)**, Washington, 9/13-16, Phil Weatherwax, (626) 969-1841, pweatherwax@earthlink.net; **Normandy Vets**, Las Vegas, 6/5-7, Mike Welch, (619) 437-0510, gmikolw@sbcglobal.net; **Norris DD/DDE 859**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/18-21, Ed Mehl, (302) 541-0685, e.mehl@mchsi.com; **North Carolina BB 55 "Showboat"**, Wilmington, NC, Harold Smith, (207) 883-5062, hasmitty@maine.rr.com

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Pine Island AV 12, Indianapolis, 10/16-18, Steve Johnson, (918) 398-0548, quasakamoto@aol.com; **Prairie AD 15**, Zion, IL, 9/23-26, Ronald Travis, (218) 278-4854, rontravd@frontiernet.net; **Pursuit AM 108/AGS 17**, Omaha, NE, 9/20-22, John Schulz, (951) 682-1743, jcsgunner@aol.com; **Robert L. Wilson DD/DDE 847**, Las Vegas, 9/20-22, Frank Esposito, (808) 625-9497, fespo71535@aol.com; **Salem CA 139**, Quincy, MA, 9/20-23, Bob Daniels, (352) 315-1397; **Samuel B. Roberts DD 823**, Charleston, SC, 10/1-5, Frank Green, (856) 935-4392, fgreen@snip.net; **Saratoga CVA 60 V-3 Div**, Hot

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TAPS

Jerry W. Beel, Dept. of Oklahoma. Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Vice Chmn. 2007.

Bettie M. Canon, Dept. of Montana.

Nat'l Historian 1991-1992 and Nat'l Merchant Mar Crmte Memb 1992-1997.

Mylio S. Kraja, Dept. of Ohio. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Crmte. Memb. 1954-1955, Dept. Cmdr. 1959-1960, Nat'l Exec. Crmte. Alt. Memb. 1960-1962, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Crmte. Memb. 1960-1962 and 1963-1964, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1967-1970, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Memb. 1970-1976, Nat'l Cmdr's Aide 1974-1975,

Nat'l World War II Commemorative Crmte. Consultant 1991-1994 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1993-2002.

John B. Mahoney, Dept. of Illinois. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Crmte. Memb. 1965-1969, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Crmte. Memb. 1968-1970, Nat'l Foreign Relations Crm. Vice Chmn. 1970-1979, Dept. Cmdr. 1974-1975, Nat'l Exec. Crmte. Alt. Memb. 1979-1981, Nat'l Merchant Marine Crmte. Memb. 1979-1981, Nat'l Exec. Crmte. Memb. 1981-1983, Nat'l Resolution Subcmte. Memb. 1981-1983, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Crmte. Memb. 1981-1983, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Crmte. Chmn. 1982-1983, and Nat'l Legis. Crm. Memb. 1985-1990, 1993-1994, 1999-2000 and 2001-2002.

John C. Mann, Dept. of Pennsylvania.

Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Crmte. Memb. 1963-1966, Nat'l Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Crmte. Chmn. 1966-1971, Nat'l Americanism Crm. Memb. 1966-1972, Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Crm. Memb. 1974-1975, Nat'l Law & Order Crmte. Memb. 1975-1979, Nat'l Legis. Crm. Memb. 1976-1978, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Crmte. Vice Chmn. 1977-1979 and 1984-1989, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Crmte. Memb. 1980-1981 and 1983-1984, Nat'l Veterans Preference Crmte. Memb. 1981-1982, Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Crm. Vice Chmn. 1991-1994, and Nat'l Emblem Crmte. Memb. 1994-2007.

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ONE SUNDAY MORNING, a young boy was acting up in church. His parents did their best to keep him quiet, but they couldn't succeed. Finally, the father picked up the boy. With a stern look on his face, he carried his son down the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the foyer, the boy had the last word, yelling to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

AN ANGRY WIFE complained about her husband spending so much time at the bar, so one night he took her along.

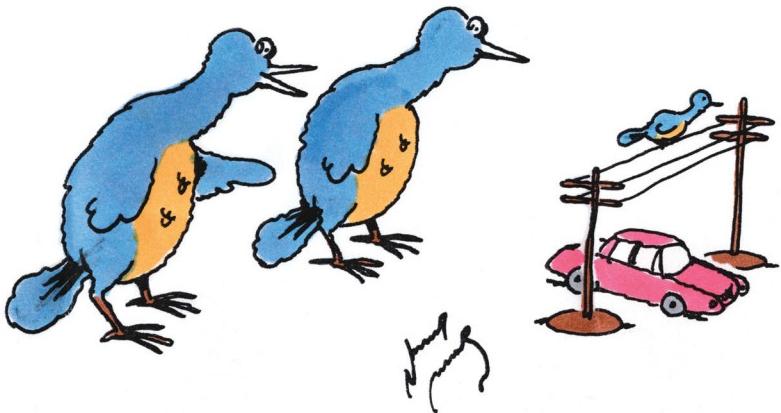
"What'll ya have?" he asked.
"Oh, I don't know. The same as you, I suppose," she replied.

The husband ordered a couple of whiskeys and drank his in one gulp.

His wife watched him, then took a sip from her glass and immediately spit it out. "Disgusting!" she exclaimed, making a face. "I don't know how you can drink this stuff."

"Well, there you go," her husband cried. "And all this time you thought I was enjoying myself!"

AS A DRUNK MAN staggers out of the bar, a firetruck races past, siren wailing and lights flashing. Immediately, he starts chasing the engine, running as fast as he can until he finally collapses. "If that's the way you want it," he yells, "you can keep your stupid ice cream!"



"We're potty-training him."



"The store was out of light bulbs, so I bought light beer instead."

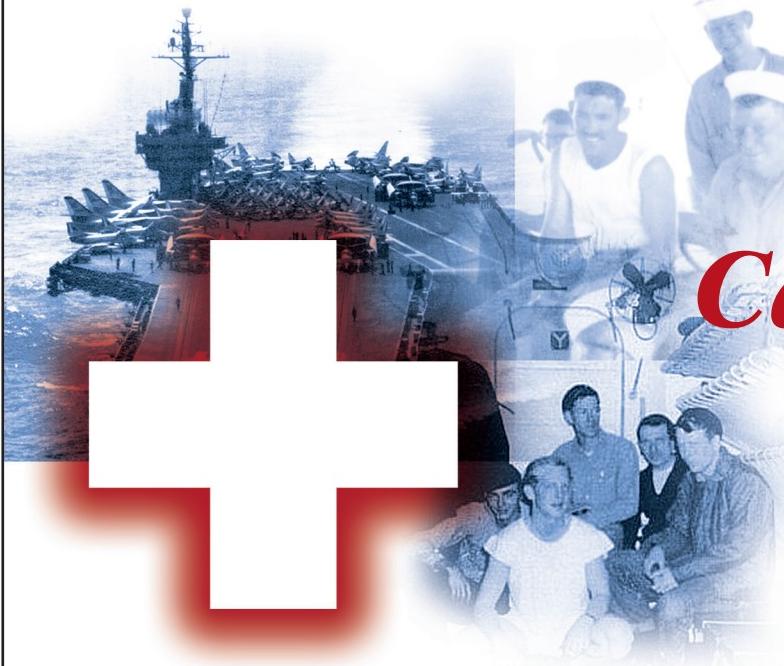
THEY CALL IT a family tree because, if you look hard enough, you'll always find some sap in it.



"Can't you see I'm on the phone?"

SEEN ON BUMPER STICKERS

- Anything not worth doing is not worth doing well.
- To err is human. To blame it on somebody else shows management potential.
- I don't have a beer gut. I have a protective covering for my rock-hard abs.
- Quiet, brain! Or I'll poke you with another Q-tip.
- I don't want buns of steel. I want buns of cinnamon.
- Yes, this is my truck. No, I won't help you move.
- When you do a good deed, get a receipt in case heaven is like the IRS.
- Therapy is expensive. Popping bubble wrap is cheap.

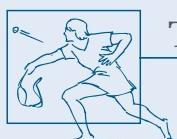


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